Entertainment / A26

British banker asks Rica Peralejo to marry him

■ Sports / A21

Vijay holds off late Tiger charge, keeps Buick title

■ Business / B5

Peso hits 3-week low, but closes at 56.14 to $1

■ Across / A15

'Jueteng' returns in Isabela

■ World / A11

Saudi King Fahd dies in hospital

Poverty, not politics, RP's main problem—Rosales

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT WAS broad daylight but so dark in the hovel that Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales thought night had fallen.

That is the depth of the poverty to which many Filipinos have fallen while the country engrosses itself in political scandals, ac-

POVERTY/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Totally false, says whistle-blower's ex-boss

By Gerry Lirio and Christine O. Avendaño

A FORMER presidential adviser who could validate tales of bribery and electoral fraud hurled against President Macapagal-Arroyo is too ill to talk at a hospital intensive care unit, friends said yesterday.

But late last night, in a signed statement re-

TOTALLY/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Tuesday, August 2, 2005 ★★★ 40 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 235 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Witness links GMA, poll fraud, 'jueteng'

Malacañang says charges incredible, implausible

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip Tubeza

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was on a charm offensive when yet another whistle-blower, Michaelangelo Zuce, surfaced to accuse her of election fraud.

"My attention is focused in bringing about change in the lives of Filipinos who are in need," Ms Arroyo said in a speech marking National Breastfeeding Week.

She pointedly asked mothers in the crowd: Didn't they too need more results than drama in their lives? She then proceeded to denounce the "black propaganda" that was being hurled against her.

"Many are saying this and that, especially those who are angry, especially those who are always in need of money," the President said. "Their testimonies are so easy to sell."

Ms Arroyo reiterated the message she had been saying to the media the past few days—the need to change the present political system.

The political system today is such that the rights of the accused, even her rights as an accused, are not being respected and these people making the accusations are not even going to the proper courts, Ms Arroyo said.

"What is being done, is that the witness would make his claims at a news conference, or do it in congressional hearings in aid of legislation, and not in aid of determining conviction," she said.

She said this only showed the need for the political system to be changed, referring to her proposal to move the country to the parliamentary system.

Ms Arroyo's aides dismissed Zuce's claims as "implausible" and "incredible," and deplored the "never-ending witch-hunt" by the opposition determined to bring her down.

Ms Arroyo's adviser for politi-

MALACAÑANG/ A6

EDWIN BACASMAS/LYN RILLON

MEDIA FACES: President Macapagal-Arroyo, during the launching of the National Plan on Infant and Young Child Feeding, and Michaelangelo Zuce (right), a former Malacañang employee, who claims to have witnessed payoffs to election officials at the President's house in Quezon City.

Confirms meet with Comelec officials

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE FIRST eyewitness account of a meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and election officials in her home emerged yesterday during which she reportedly appealed for help to win last year's balloting and money from an illegal gambling lord was handed out after she had left.

Michaelangelo S. Zuce, 30, an aide to Ms Arroyo's former political adviser Jose Ma. Rufino, said at a news conference the gathering in the President's La Vista home happened sometime in January—four months before the balloting.

The burly Zuce said he helped organize the meeting between Ms Arroyo and 27 regional directors and provincial supervisors of the Commission on Elections with Virgilio Garcillano, an uncle whose voice had been caught in a wiretapped conversation with Ms Arroyo. The opposition said the wiretap, released in June, was evidence of vote fixing.

Aside from Garcillano, a former Comelec commissioner, and Zuce, also present were Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged "jueteng" lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda and former Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy.

Zuce said Ms Arroyo joined the group for dinner in the lower level of her La Vista house in Quezon City, after which she "gave a short talk" and asked the poll officials "to support and help her" in the coming balloting. He said that after Ms Arroyo left, Pineda handed Regional Director Johnny Icaro white envelopes, each containing P30,000, for the participants.

"President Arroyo is not merely the beneficiary of the cheating ... She had knowledge and direct

WITNESS/ A10

Ex-office mates remember comic absentee

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WHEN Michaelangelo Zuce surfaced yesterday, among those who were gladdened by his media debut were his ex-office mates on the third floor of Mabini Building in Malacañang.

"We have not seen or heard from him for a long time. At least now he can pay the debts he left here in the office," said Andrew Gutierrez, a government technical analyst.

INQUIRER interviews produced various portraits of the suddenly famous Zuce—a chronic absentee from work, a man who left behind a pile of debts, a comic, a "hero."

It came as a shock to Gutierrez and his office mates when they heard Zuce's allegation that bribes were paid to election officials at Ms Arroyo's residence to help her win last year's election.

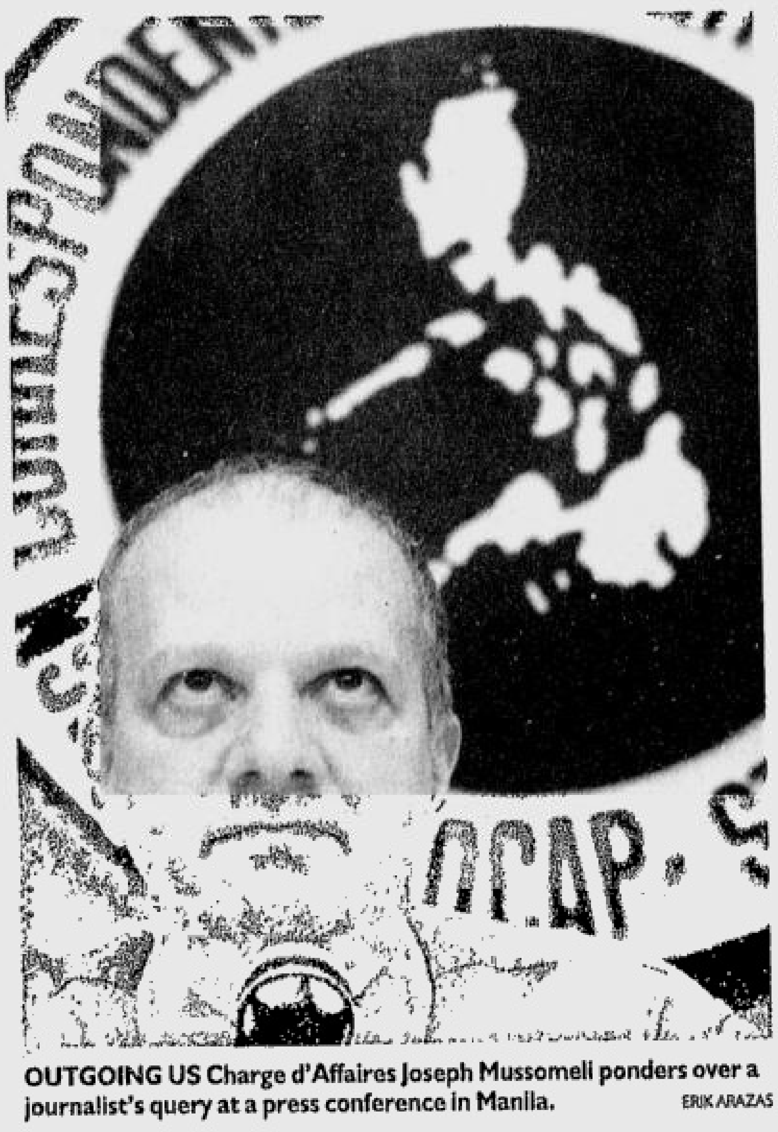
"We never had an inkling he'd do this," said Gutierrez. He said Zuce had a "high lifestyle," going to toney places in a brand-new vehicle complete with a driver and a bodyguard.

Gutierrez said Zuce never attended flag ceremonies on Palace grounds and had trouble punching in his daily time record because he was sometimes late or absent.

Once, Zuce was reprimanded for allegedly falsifying the signa-

EX-OFFICE MATES/ A8

No coup risk, says US diplomat



OUTGOING US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli ponders over a journalist's query at a press conference in Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

By Volt Contreras

AS FAR as threats from restive military officers are concerned, President Macapagal-Arroyo can rest easy now, Washington's top diplomat in Manila said yesterday.

Outgoing US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli said that while "there's always disgruntlement" in the military, "I don't believe there's any risk now of a military coup. Put it close to zero."

He noted that the Armed Forces of the Philippines staying "neutral" was one of the "silver linings" of the political crisis.

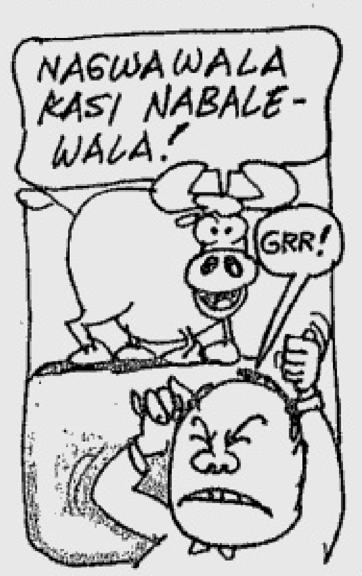
Ms Arroyo has been under pressure to resign over allegations that she rigged last year's presidential vote and condoned corruption by close relatives. The President has denied the allegations.

After street protests and the withdrawal of support by former President Corazon Aquino, the Makati Business Club and the Liberal Party failed to dislodged Ms Arroyo from office, opposition legislators filed an impeachment complaint against her.

Ms Arroyo has held her ground with the backing of a network of provincial and local politicians.

Mussomeli said Washington

NO COUP/ A6



NAGWAWALA KASI NABALEWALA!
GRR!

Solon sulks; impeachment rules OKd

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

A CONGRESSMAN, who endorsed the first impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo feels insulted because the opposition treated him as if he "did not exist."

Alagad party-list Rep. Ro-

SOLON/ A8

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

Graft-buster leads winners

AN INDONESIAN anticorruption campaigner, a Thai senator who champions the underprivileged, and an Indian cancer doctor are among this year's winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's version of the Nobel Prize.

The annual awards, named after late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay, will be presented to six winners from Thailand, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Laos and Bangladesh on Aug. 31, organizers yesterday announced.

Indonesia's Teten Masduki, 42, won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service for "challenging Indonesians to expose corruption and claim their right to clean government."

"I plunged into the activist world" after joining a 1985 demonstration by local farmers whose land had been stolen, said Teten, who was born into a family of farmers.

In 1998, he volunteered to head Indonesia Corruption Watch, which became a clearinghouse for information about corruption, collusion and nepotism. Last year, the group examined 432 cases that caused Indonesia an estimated loss of US$580 million.

Thailand's Jon Ungphakorn, 58, became a second-generation winner, bagging the Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service. He was recognized for "his impassioned in-

GRAFT-BUSTER/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with occasional rains and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy, with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/08/02/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FrontPage

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'Slaughterhouse politics' in RP

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EXPECT FIVE months of "slaughterhouse politics."

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said political enemies of President Macapagal-Arroyo would use all the tricks in the book to oust her before the New Year.

This, she said, was due to the prediction of Bear Stearns & Co., a US investment bank, that Ms Arroyo had a good chance of finishing her term up to 2010, despite mounting calls for her resignation and the filing of an impeachment case against her.

The American bank put at 50 to 60 percent, Ms Arroyo's chances of surviving her worst political crisis today and an even higher 65 to 75 percent, if she survives until January next year.

"I agree, and I warn that in the next five months, President Arroyo's political enemies will try every trick in the book to unseat her before New Year," Santiago said.

"They will attack with fake polls, telephone banks, e-mails, anonymous letters, automatic dialing of untraceable hate messages, phony front groups, radio-TV talk show call-ins etc., to pillory her," she said.

DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO

From now up to December, according to the senator, the country will suffer from "slaughterhouse politics."

"President Arroyo's enemies are operating below radar, that is why they are not named by media. But Malacañang knows who they are," she said.

Santiago already questioned the claims of Michael Angelo Zuce who said that officials of the Commission on Elections were bribed with jueteng payola to rig the 2004 election for Ms Arroyo.

She also wanted to terminate the joint Senate inquiry on jueteng after one last hearing to listen to the remaining witnesses of Lingayen Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

Santiago also confirmed that she was interested in the Senate presidency. She said it was untenable for Sen. Franklin Drilon to stay on as Senate president.

"It is anomalous for an opposition senator to remain as Senate president when the Senate majority is composed of administration senators. This kind of political equation does not compute because administration bills would be log-jammed," she said.

Santiago said administration senators would not leave Drilon free to strike a voting alliance with the opposition because the minority would become the new majority and the current majority senators would lose their committee chairmanships.

She said Drilon would ultimately be replaced because the status quo would spell suicide for the administration senators.

"My first and last word on the subject is that if it is offered, I shall accept. Otherwise, I am not campaigning because I am a marooned senator, in the sense that I do not belong to any power bloc. At best, I would be a compromise candidate," Santiago said.

Drilon had rejected the reconciliation offer of the President, saying his and the Liberal Party's withdrawal of support was not personal.

He said the LP's call for Ms Arroyo's resignation was due to her failure to implement necessary reforms that could have enabled her to regain public confidence.

"Her ability to govern has been impaired by allegations of poll fraud and the jueteng corruption scandals," Drilon said.

He made the statement after Ms Arroyo extended her hand of reconciliation with her political foes who had called for her resignation.

The LP, chaired by Drilon, announced its stand last July 8 hours after 10 key members of the President's Cabinet resigned and asked her to step down.

Go on leave, opposition tells GMA

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PRESIDENT should go on leave.

Opposition lawmakers yesterday said that President Macapagal-Arroyo should not be allowed to influence the investigation on the electoral fraud charges against her by filing a leave of absence.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said that Ms Arroyo should take a leave of absence and have her constitutionally mandated successor, Vice President Noli de Castro, take over.

"Since Saturday, the President has been saying that she would no longer comment on the (Gloriagate) tapes upon the advice of her lawyers. In the same vein, we would like to request the President to file a leave of absence so that the Senate and House investigations on the tapes and the jueteng scandal would not be affected," Suplico said in a press conference.

"The President, if she remains in office, has influence and may affect the investigation," he added.

When asked who would take over the presidency, Escudero said the Constitution should be followed.

"It's not for us to give suggestions ... The answer to who should replace President Arroyo if she resigns or is impeached is already in the Constitution and we don't need to change that. They are the ones trying to change the Charter. Not us," Escudero said.

He said that Ms Arroyo herself had admitted that she considers herself an accused in the impeachment case against her. He said she might not be able to conduct her work since she would be busy with her defense.

"It is sad that the President, who is obligated to explain to us the truth about what happened, would just remain silent on the advice of her lawyers. This only gives credence to doubts that maybe the accusations against Ms Arroyo are true," Escudero said.

"If she did nothing wrong, then she should answer directly that it was not her voice on the tape and that no such meeting took place in her house in La Vista. Why is it that she cannot say even that? She could prove her claims when the time comes," he said.

"Both the question and answer are simple. Are [these accusations] true? If their defense is that they're not true, why can't she say that now?" he added.

Let the gentleman stay, says senator

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

LET THE gentleman stay.

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday said there was no reason for the President's controversial husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, to stay away from the country and his family.

"I don't see the logic of forced conjugal separation," Santiago said arguing for Mike Arroyo, who has returned to the country to attend the burial of a half-sister.

Ms Arroyo sent off her husband on self-exile after charges of "jueteng" payoffs and electoral fraud surfaced against him.

"There is no law, civil or canonical, that requires the President's husband to go abroad when charged with certain offenses by her political enemies," Santiago said.

"As a happily married Christian, I vote to let the husband stay with the wife. The Bible says that what God has put together, no man should put asunder. They are not divorced, so why should they be apart?" said Santiago, whose husband Narciso "Jun" Santiago is a presidential adviser for revenue enhancement.

She also rejected the position of the Hyatt 10, the group of key Cabinet members who resigned last month, that the mere presence of Mike Arroyo might contaminate the presidency with scandal.

She said this argument was superficial.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo said his brother Mike Arroyo might go back to the United States to continue his self-imposed exile.

"Most probably, he would [return to the US] but that is [something] for him and the President to talk about it. It is not for me to suggest anything," the congressman said yesterday in Bacolod.

"If it were up to me, I don't think politics should separate a family but it is their life and it is up to them to decide," he added. *With Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Is Raul playing the fool to take heat off Gloria?

By Blanche S. Rivera

IS JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzales acting as a willing foil to flak-torn President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Even militant groups are beginning to wonder where Gonzales gets the zest – and apparent license – to assail personalities and institutions that have either criticized President Arroyo or called on her to resign.

"We have come to suspect that the new task of Gonzales is to be intolerably obnoxious so as to have critics concentrate on him and give the President a respite from criticism," the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said in a statement.

The farmers' group said it would not be ensnared by what it saw as a trap laid by the administration.

But it nonetheless railed against Gonzales, who in stoutly defending Ms Arroyo at every turn, has emerged as a predictable character in the Arroyo government, amusing to some and annoying to others.

The KMP warned Gonzales to think first before he lashed out at critics of the President.

Gonzales' latest target is the University of the Philippines, which he said was a "haven for people who seek the downfall of the government."

Gonzales had sought the review of the UP Charter after UP students joined protest actions against the President. He said UP should teach students to be lawful instead of inciting them to sedition as befits a state-run school.

KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said the country's premier university should declare Gonzales, an alumnus, persona non grata and a "walking undesirable."

"He should be barred from entering any and all UP campuses. UP does not need such a man to walk its premises," Ramos said.

Kamikaze says comparison to suicide bombers 'an insult'

KANOYA, Japan—Sixty years after their cause was defeated, the veterans of Japan's once-dreaded kamikaze squads understand the mindset that would lead men to kill themselves on the London transport system solely to take more lives.

But while they also possessed a religious zeal in taking on the West, the former kamikaze find it offensive to equate their military missions with suicide bombings against civilians by modern-day Islamic militants.

Hiroshi Shinjo barely lived to tell his tale. He was set to be another of the thousands of kamikaze pilots trained to die crashing into US ships, but before his turn could come Emperor Hirohito announced surrender on Aug. 15, 1945.

"I feel insulted to hear our missions described as the same as Islam's suicide bombings," said the 83-year-old veteran.

"We did this in wartime battle, samurai against samurai, and what they are doing are indiscriminate attacks aimed at killing innocent people," he said, referring to the code-bound samurai knights of medieval Japan.

"But mentally speaking, kamikaze missions could be similar" to suicide bombings, he added cautiously.

"I don't think I cared about my life. We thought we wanted to level a blow by crashing into the enemy's ships in order to save our nation," he said.

"Those terrorists were brainwashed and ordered to lose their lives in a fanatic act," he said of suicide bombers.

But he conceded: "On the other hand, some people may argue that the Japanese navy and army also acted abnormally, ignoring life."

SATO: No one has a right to kill innocent people, especially children. AFP

THIS undated file picture from World War II shows young pilots from the Japanese Royal Navy drinking cups of water before their kamikaze suicidal attack mission. AFP

Kamikaze, which translates as "divine wind," is the word used in the West to describe the suicidal World War II pilots but in Japan they were known simply as the "tokkotai" or "special attack unit."

Like many Islamic suicide bombers today, kamikaze pilots were often educated but politically driven young men and at the time were treated as heroes. They were ritually honored before their sacrifices which would make front-page news.

But in a possible sign of how the Islamic world could regard suicide bombers were the practice to end, the kamikaze today have a mixed legacy in Japan.

While some nationalists sentimentalize kamikaze as men who died for Japan, largely the nation has chosen to forget them. After the war, surviving kamikaze pilots were criticized as inhumane. Most of them lead quiet lives without speaking in public of their past, and their experience is little taught in schools.

Shigeyoshi Hamazono, who engaged in air combat in the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Taiwan and Japan, is one of a handful of former kamikaze now trying to retell the story.

Unlike in most of Japan, memories of the kamikaze remain vivid at the Kanoya Air Base Museum in this southwestern Japanese city which displays the pilots' portraits, farewell notes and a Zero fighter used in the missions that sowed terror in US forces.

"For those who carried out the attacks in London or Iraq, there must be their own reasons such as (reacting to) contempt, an offense or pressure," said Hamazono, a former navy pilot of the Kamikaze Special Attack Force.

"But no one has a right to kill innocent people, especially children," said the 81-year-old veteran, whose lethal mission ended incomplete after his Zero fighter was damaged in a dog-fight just before the end of World War II.

"Terrorist attacks will never bring any happiness to terrorist groups in the end," Hamazono warned in low voice.

The kamikaze are often cited as an example of suicide attacks not being solely the domain of Muslim militants, who have carried out dramatic strikes such as the Sept. 11, 2001 hijackings in the United States and the July 7 subway and bus bombings in London.

The most prolific single group of suicide bombers is in fact the predominantly Hindu Tamil Tigers, who have sent 241 "Black Tigers" since 1987 in their campaign for a separate state in Sri Lanka.

"Some people in other countries say *tokkotai* is the same as the suicide bombings, but the two are totally different," Hamazono said firmly.

"Our missions ended as soon as the war ended, but there is no end in terrorism," he said.

"And we did not want any money or status. We just wanted to protect our land, blue mountains and beautiful rivers" from US attack, he said.

The suicide diving squad was a late addition to the Japanese war effort. In October 1944, with the tide of war turning against Tokyo and the imperial navy's air fleet badly outnumbered in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines, Japan decided to turn its planes into bombs.

By the end of the war, nearly 4,000 pilots would kill themselves trying to crash fighter planes onto US ships. While they stoked fear in the hearts of many US troops, most kamikaze were shot down before they could reach their targets.

Chitoshi Sato, 78, a former in-flight operator for the kamikaze, said the Japanese missions and modern suicide bombings "are different stories because our target was those who had weapons."

Sato, however, said specially developed rocket-bombers, the toughest mission of the kamikaze force, were "abnormal."

In the mission code-named "Cherryblossom," mother aircraft would release planes with 600 kilograms of explosives, steered by one pilot down onto US ships.

The six-meter aircrafts, powered by a rocket lasting only 27 seconds, were nicknamed "stupid bombers" by the Allies as the pilots' deaths were guaranteed and they rarely hit their targets.

Despite the perceived glory at the time, historians in retrospect question whether all kamikaze were so enthusiastic to die.

"Fundamentally speaking, I can say recent suicide bombings should be seen as a different form of attacks from kamikaze missions," said Masayasu Hosaka, an expert of Japan's war history who has written about the kamikaze.

"In suicide bombings, the terrorists are acting based on self-initiative, which means the ultimate decisions on their actions is in their hands," Hosaka said.

"But kamikaze pilots did it for the sake of the military order," he said. "Reading their farewell notes and listening to survivors, I can say many of the pilots did not want to do it and questioned the meaning of the attacks." AFP

ROSES FOR A BESIEGED PRESIDENT

President Macapagal-Arroyo hugs a child, one of two children who presented her with red roses at Malacañang's Rizal Hall Monday. The occasion marked the launching of the National Plan on Infant and Young Child Feeding which coincided with the celebration of the World Breastfeeding Week, from Aug. 1 to Aug. 7. EDWIN BACASMAS

Peace talks with Reds off

Gov't cites NDF 'unilateral withdrawal'

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

COMMUNIST guerrillas have unilaterally backed out of peace talks with the Philippine government, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief negotiator said yesterday.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) declared last month there was no sense in pursuing negotiations with Ms Arroyo, whom it described as a "lame duck" since she faces an impeachment complaint in Congress for alleged vote-rigging.

"We regret the NDF's unilateral withdrawal from the talks," government negotiator Nieves Confessor said in a statement, referring to the CPP's Netherlands-based political wing, the National Democratic Front.

She said the rebel group "stands to lose much more by closing the door to the peace talks," citing interim agreements on human rights and immunity guarantees for rebel negotiators.

"Their members and leaders will also lose the safety and immunity guarantees they currently enjoy," Confessor added.

In Lucena City, Communist Party spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal assailed Confessor for allegedly sowing malicious intrigues by saying that the NDF had closed its doors to peace.

"Apparently, Confessor could not understand that what the NDF did was to indefinitely postpone the peace negotiations with the Arroyo administration. It is still willing to pursue the just conclusion of the peace negotiations but with the next regime since GMA's post is now crumbling," Rosal said in an interview yesterday.

He asked Confessor to refer to the statement of NDF chief peace negotiator Luis Jalandoni dated July 23 for further enlightenment.

In his statement, Jalandoni clarified that the "NDFP has not issued the notice of termination to end peace negotiations."

That even while the formal talks were postponed, Jalandoni claimed that peace negotiations between the government and the NDF were still ongoing.

He added that all signed agreements—The Hague Joint Declaration (Jasig), the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), the Oslo Joint Statement of Feb. 14, 2004, and the Second Oslo Joint Statement of April 3, 2004,—were still binding and effective.

He explained that the termination of peace negotiations would become effective 30 days from the date the NDF received the notice of termination from the government.

"Within those 30 days, the NDFP personnel would continue to enjoy safety and immunity guarantees and are allowed to secure their physical safety. Moreover, the panelists, consultants, staffers and other persons duly authorized to participate in the peace negotiations are never held liable for any act of participation in the peace negotiations," Jalandoni said.

But he stressed that if the Arroyo administration would want to terminate the peace negotiations, "there is nothing we can do but expose and oppose the bellicose and cruel character of the regime." *With AFP*

Erap plans to personally press bail bid

By Nelson F. Flores

FORMER President Joseph Estrada will personally ask the Sandiganbayan Special Division to grant his petition for bail so he can better prepare for his defense in the plunder case filed against him by the government.

Defense lawyer Rene Saguisag yesterday said they would present the 68-year-old Estrada on the witness stand next month to justify his request for bail.

Although they welcome the deposed president's testimony, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said they would oppose Estrada's bid for bail.

Villa-Ignacio said Estrada, whom he described as a sick man, should be returned instead to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he would be accessible to his lawyers and would be just minutes away from the Sandiganbayan.

Villa-Ignacio also asked Estrada's lawyers to stop presenting reporters as witnesses since their testimonies were irrelevant to the plunder charges faced by the former president before the anti-graft court.

Saguisag stressed, however, that Estrada's personal appearance would not have any bearing on his indictment. If the court granted him bail, this would not be construed as a conviction; if bail was denied, this would not be interpreted as an acquittal, he explained.

Jose Flaminiano, another member of Estrada's defense team, said there was no danger of the former president jumping bail or going abroad. This had been proven several times in the past. He said the posting of bail would give Estrada every opportunity to defend himself from criminal charges that are punishable by death.

"This is a life and death struggle for our client. He should be given every opportunity to defend himself," Flaminiano said.

Justice Teresita de Castro, presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan Special Division, gave Villa-Ignacio seven days to respond to Estrada's petition for bail and five days for the defense lawyers to submit their counter reply.

Estrada, who is detained in his sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal, has been in detention since 2001 even as his co-accused and son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, has already been granted bail.

Muslim group wants ARMM polls postponed

A MUSLIM group wants the Aug. 8 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) postponed, claiming that "no credible election" can be held with "President Macapagal-Arroyo still in Malacañang."

"We're hoping that the Supreme Court will hear our pleas for the postponement," said Amirah Ali Lidasan, national vice chair of Suara Bangsamoro party-list group.

The group had earlier asked the high court to issue a temporary restraining order against next week's election. *Tina G. Santos*

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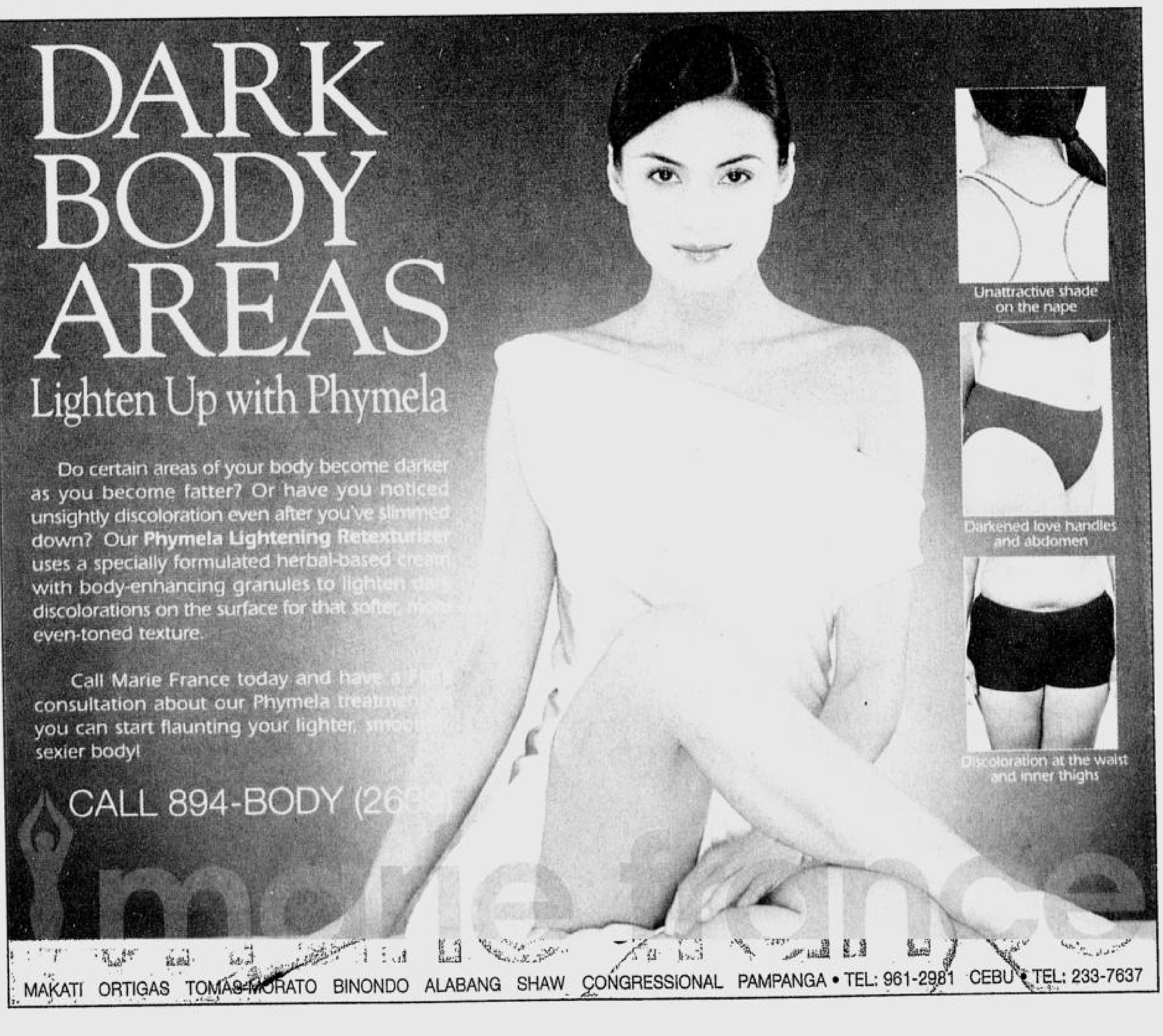
*One way airfare excluding taxes and fees. Seats available until 25 March 2006. Limited seats per flight and subject to availability. Limited availability over public holidays and school holidays. All bookings are non-refundable and subject to terms and conditions stated in our website.



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Asians with a Passion for the Common Good

CLAIMING THE RIGHT TO CLEAN GOVERNMENT

Joining a demonstration of local farmers whose land had been stolen was Teten Masduki's first taste of activism; he subsequently left his world as a high school teacher and in 1990 joined the Indonesian Legal Aid Society (LBHI). As head of LBHI's labor rights section he came face to face with the unjust impact that manufacturers' payoffs to corrupt government officials had on the dismal level of workers' wages; in 1998 Masduki volunteered to head Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW), a new LBHI program. Since then he has tirelessly shepherded the organization to become a formidable movement that mobilizes public attention on corruption and more importantly, harnesses public support against corrupt persons and practices. Through citizen reports and its network of volunteer lawyers, accountants, and economists, ICW is able to investigate, expose and seek redress for flagrant irregularities that perpetuate the culture of corruption and rob the Indonesian people of their right to responsible and honest governance. In 2004, ICW examined 432 such cases which caused an estimated loss to the country of over $500 million. Despite grave threats and continuing personal risk, Masduki and his ICW staff persist in their crusade.

The Foundation recognizes *"his challenging Indonesians to expose corruption and claim their right to clean government."*

TETEN MASDUKI
INDONESIA

2005 AWARDEE *for*
PUBLIC SERVICE

JON UNGPHAKORN
THAILAND

2005 AWARDEE *for*
GOVERNMENT SERVICE

ADVOCATING THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA

In Thailand's young democracy, Jon Ungphakorn upholds the Senate's role as an independent institution that monitors the government and shapes the country's laws. Using his position as Senator to advocate for the rights and concerns of marginalized groups, Ungphakorn has addressed diverse issues including access of HIV/AIDS patients to affordable drugs and health care, threats to rural livelihoods posed by government's mega-development projects, the brutal treatment of minority communities in the country's south, the lack of transparency in media reporting on the violation of human rights. His crusade for social justice and responsive governance is rooted in many years of pioneering social activism which included founding the Thai Volunteer Service to expose privileged university graduates to the country's rural poor, helping the country's nascent civil society gain expertise and resources, setting up the AIDS-Access Foundation to address the needs of persons with HIV/AIDS and their families and to fight the public stigma of AIDS, among others.

The Foundation recognizes *"his impassioned insistence as a senator that Thailand respect the rights and attend humanely to the needs of its least advantaged citizens."*

ENSURING WISDOM AND COMPASSION IN CANCER CARE

As a young medical student, V. Shanta was much inspired by Muthulakshmi Reddy, a social reformer and India's first woman medical graduate. Drawn to Reddy's vision in founding the Women's Indian Association (WIA) Cancer Institute in Chennai, Dr. Shanta joined the Institute in its third year and, for the next five decades, poured all her energies to bring the best of cancer research and treatment to the Institute's legions of patients. Step by challenging step, Dr. Shanta worked with Dr. Krishnamurti, the Institute's founding director, to set up India's first pediatric cancer clinic, conduct the country's first major cancer survey and develop the first program for the early detection of cancer in rural areas. Through her leadership, the Institute has become a world-class center doing groundbreaking research work in the treatment of different cancers; equally inspiring is how Dr. Shanta has ensured that the Institute's 100,000 annual patients receive compassionate care – in free or subsidized services, in travel allowances for those needing regular treatments, in emotional support and counseling for patients and their families.

The Foundation recognizes *"her untiring leadership of Chennai's WIA Cancer Institute as a center of excellence and compassion for the study and treatment of cancer in India."*

V. SHANTA
INDIA

2005 AWARDEE *for*
PUBLIC SERVICE

HYE-RAN YOON
KOREA

2005 AWARDEE *for*
EMERGENT LEADERSHIP

MOBILIZING COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOCIAL SERVICES

Responding to the lack of community services to deal with the needs of young people at risk, Hye-Ran Yoon initiated the establishment of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in her hometown of Cheonan, South Korea. Then fresh out of university, Yoon led Cheonan's new "Y" to provide social and recreational facilities and other positive activities for young people. But she soon realized that other groups, who are culturally marginalized in Korea, also lacked much-needed social services – the elderly, the disabled, the poor, the mentally handicapped. Passing the leadership of "Y" to a trusted successor, she founded Citizens Opening the World for Welfare (COWW) to improve social welfare for these vulnerable groups. At COWW, Yoon led in organizing different community-based NGOs for the elderly, for handicapped children, for the disabled, and nurtured these civic organizations until they were operationally self-sufficient and financially stable. Through her unusual and successful approach of "incubating" NGOs, Yoon has now also built a network of local professionals and organizational leaders who have been able to push for the adoption of a welfare-policy agenda in Cheonan.

The Foundation recognizes *"her catalytic role in enabling Cheonan's civil society to exercise its social responsibilities dynamically and democratically."*

WIELDING MEDIA FOR CONSTRUCTIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

Founder and editor of *Prothom Alo*, the highest-circulation Bangla-language daily newspaper in Bangladesh, Matiur Rahman established his newspaper's credibility by exposing the missteps of both government and its foes, and by aggressively covering corruption, terrorism and human rights violations. Since 2000, he and *Prothom Alo* have focused their constructive advocacy on the heartless crime of acid throwing, where victims, mostly young women, are painfully and permanently disfigured by attackers who are offended when denied sex, marriage or suitable dowries. Rahman mounted a sustained campaign to pressure government for tougher laws against acid attacks and the reckless sale of dangerous chemicals. He established the *Prothom Alo* Acid Fund, urged readers to contribute, personally appealed for donations, mobilized celebrities and volunteers to take the campaign throughout the country. By 2004, 7.6 million taka had been raised and channeled to victims for burn treatments, plastic surgery, legal fees, income-generating assets, among others. Moreover, in 2002 Bangladesh passed laws with stiffer penalties for acid throwers, and tighter licensing requirements for acid sales.

The Foundation recognizes *"his wielding the power of the press to crusade against acid throwing and to stir Bangladeshis to help its many victims."*

MATIUR RAHMAN
BANGLADESH

2005 AWARDEE *for*
JOURNALISM, LITERATURE,
and CREATIVE
COMMUNICATION ARTS

SOMBATH SOMPHONE
LAOS

2005 AWARDEE *for*
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

More than half of the population of Laos is below twenty years old; with few opportunities and increasing social problems at home, many look for better lives abroad. But for Sombath Somphone, these three million young people are precisely his country's best hope to build a better future; his work in the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC) in Vientiane reflects this conviction and his teams of young volunteers-cum-trainees exemplify his commitment to participatory learning and leadership development. Reaching as many as 9,000 youths in any given week, PADETC programs empower high-school-aged "Weekend Volunteers" to work on educational materials and activities for younger children, university-level "Green Ants" to promote environmental awareness and eco-friendly practices, and post-graduate trainees to do fieldwork in social and economic concerns, particularly at the grassroots. Somphone founded PADETC in 1996 to foster sustainable, equitable and self-reliant development in Laos; today it remains the only officially recognized organization of its kind in the country, and is creatively combining its development advocacy with the formation of confident young leaders for the future.

The Foundation recognizes *"his hopeful efforts to promote sustainable development in Laos by training and motivating its young people to become a generation of leaders."*

THE 2005 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 2, 2005
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Num 12:1-13
Gospel: Matthew 15:1-2,10-14

Then some Pharisees and teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. And they said to him, "Why don't your disciples follow the tradition of the elders? In fact, they don't wash their hands before eating."

Jesus then called the people near him and said to them, "Listen and understand: what enters into the mouth does not make a person unclean, what defiles one is what comes out of his mouth."

After a while the disciples gathered around Jesus and said, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you said?" Jesus answered, "Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted shall be uprooted. Pay no attention to them! They are blind leading the blind. When a blind person leads another, the two will fall into a pit."

Commentary

Once again Jesus is put on the spot by the Pharisees and teachers of the law on details about fine points of tradition: washing their hands. And Jesus calls everyone to listen: what enters the mouth doesn't make a person unclean-what comes out of the mouth does. And the disciples are concerned that the Pharisees are offended. And now it is Jesus who is offended: he sharply tells them to pay no attention to them—they are blind leading the blind, dangerous to everyone, including themselves. Do we get upset about the crucial issues of poverty, justice, the truth and forgiveness and no violence, or are we like Jesus' adversaries looking for details and inane bits of arcane laws that have no bearing on actual life and worship?

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PNP chief admits kidnapping cases up

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

NEW kidnap for ransom (KFR) groups have emerged to take the place of those that have been neutralized, the Philippine National Police admitted yesterday.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao also admitted a resurgence in kidnapping cases in the last couple of months.

"There are now small emerging groups of kidnappers," he said in a news conference at Camp Crame.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had crowed about the reduction in kidnapping activities in her July 25 State of the Nation Address.

But anti-kidnapping crusader Teresita Ang-See quickly pointed out that incidents have in fact increased.

"There has been a slight increase in the number of kidnapping incidents in the last two or three months," Lomibao acknowledged yesterday.

"These are the small groups who do not ask for too much ransom," he added.

He said some are remnants of the big kidnapping syndicates that have neutralized by the police.

The PNP claimed that in the last four years, most of the 27 known kidnapping groups have been neutralized.

Lomibao said only eight of these groups have remained.

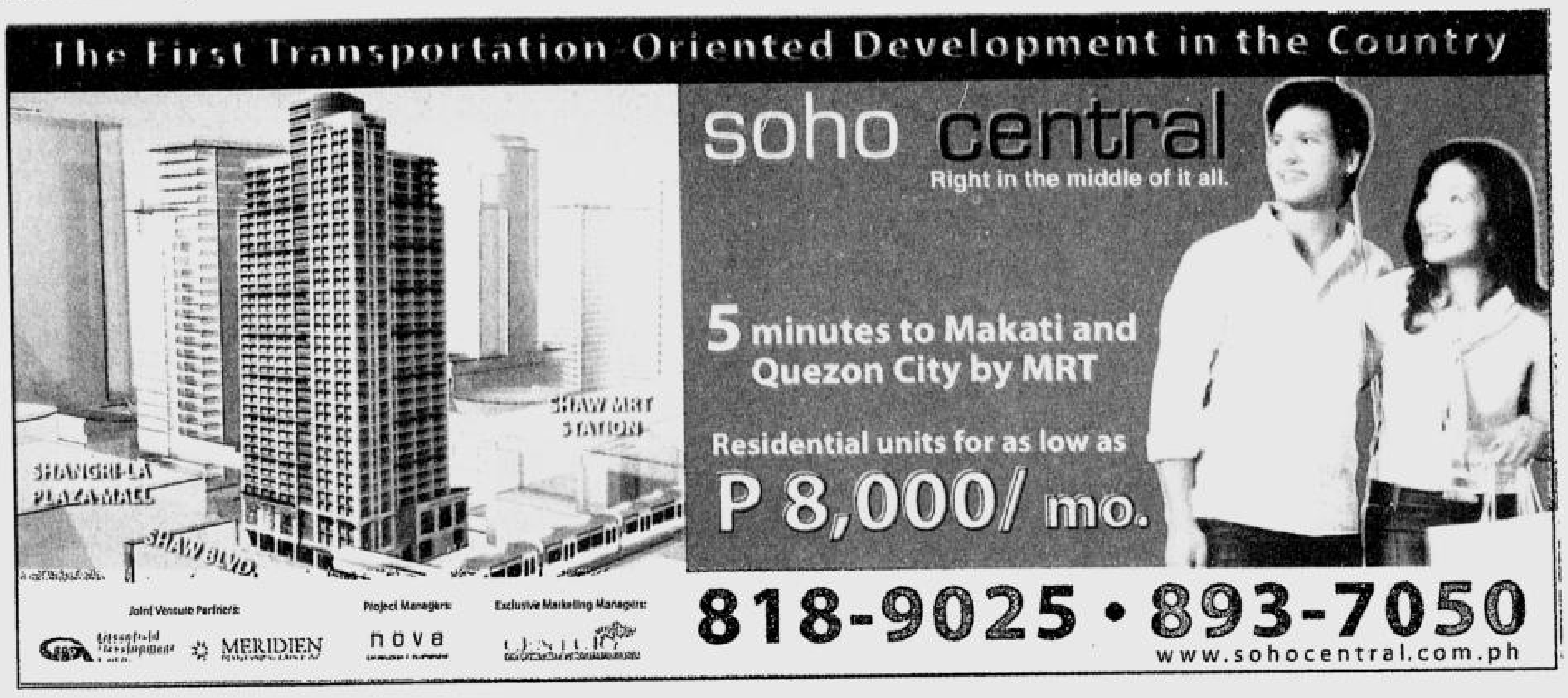
But he said the PNP needs to revise its order of battle to include the new suspected kidnap groups.

Lomibao said the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktf) would hold a workshop in the next two weeks and afterward publish a new list of most-wanted kidnap syndicate leaders.

He said the Naktf had met with Ang-See, head of the Citizens' Action Against Crime (CAAC), to coordinate their actions and compare records.

Lomibao sounded off asking for more funds from the government to buy new equipment.

LOMIBAO: A slight increase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He will testify, says Tatad

By Leila B. Salaverria

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz may be unwilling to handle him, but former Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. would testify at the Senate in connection with the jueteng inquiry, according to former Sen. Francisco Tatad.

Tatad said Dy's account was corroborated by the statements of the latest witness against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Michaelangelo Zuce, a former political officer at Malacañang, said yesterday that regional directors received payoffs at the President's La Vista home before the 2004 election and that Dy was one of those present at the time.

"We expect the former governor of Isabela to appear at the Senate. But I believe the witness to be presented in a while would be able to prove more or less the testimony of governor Dy," Tatad told reporters at the 'Kapihan sa Manila forum.

He also said he received reports that Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda or his wife Lilia met with Dy in Los Angeles, apparently to convince him to back out of his decision to testify, but was unsuccessful.

"From reports we received, either Bong or Mrs. Pineda was seen with him or talked to him but apparently, the result was not very good, so he's going to provide testimony," Tatad said.

Zuce identified Lilia as the one who handed the money to the election officials.

Wary about intentions

Archbishop Cruz earlier said he would be staying away from Dy should the latter prove "too hot to handle." Sources said Cruz was wary about Dy's real intention in coming out to testify against Ms Arroyo, his longtime political ally.

Dy's family had been lording it over politics in Isabela for many years, but in the last election, he was unseated as governor by Grace Padaca, a former broadcaster. Padaca also bared earlier that politicians in her province benefited from the illegal numbers game jueteng.

Tatad, who served as press secretary under president Ferdinand Marcos, also said Malacañang's public relations campaign to boost the President's image was unlikely to succeed as long as there is interest in the controversies surrounding her.

"There is a limit to what media can do. If the country is aware of what is happening, whatever attempts to cover things up would not succeed because the issues are very much alive," he said, responding to a question about the effectiveness of the Palace's PR blitz.

He added the public would not allow itself to be hoodwinked by the administration's campaign.

Ex-gov preparing deposition on payoffs

By Christian V. Esguerra and Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. may no longer return to the country to possibly testify on alleged payoffs to election officials at President Macapagal-Arroyo's house in Quezon City before the 2004 polls, but he is instead preparing a deposition about the incident.

"He might not return anymore to testify," according to a highly placed source in Archbishop Oscar Cruz's Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng. The group is negotiating for Dy's appearance at a Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers racket.

The source said the politician feared that he might be harmed in case he flew back to Manila from San Francisco, California, and testified against the President, his longtime political ally.

Earlier, Dy, who lost in the 2004 gubernatorial race to radio commentator Grace Padaca, was quoted in newspapers as saying that he fled to the United States out of fear of being assassinated by communist rebels, who allegedly supported his rival in the elections.

Possibilities

"He's afraid of the possibilities," the source said, adding that Cruz and former Sen. Vicente Sotto III had already been told about the witness' apprehensions.

Dy was said to have told Sotto about the supposed meeting between Ms Arroyo and the Commission on Elections officials while they were playing golf.

Asked about Dy's purported decision to stay in the United States in the meantime, Cruz yesterday said he and Sotto "already understand each other." He did not elaborate.

The source said the planned deposition would contain Dy's account of the alleged meeting between the President and a number of Comelec officials, supposedly including missing former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, at her house in La Vista, Quezon City, shorty before the elections.

Lilia Pineda, the President's "*kumare*," and wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, allegedly gave each of the officials P2 million cash purportedly to help ensure Ms Arroyo's poll victory.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who is serving as lawyer to one of Cruz's jueteng witnesses, was still in the United States to seek an affidavit from Dy. The document is among the requirements set by the bishops for Cruz's group to support a prospective witness.

Dy defender

But on Sunday, Cruz said he was no longer keen on getting Dy, explaining that he might be "too hot to handle."

Another golf buddy of Dy's, Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, yesterday said he was surprised by Cruz's remarks. "Why should he make such statements (this early)? But that's his opinion," he told the INQUIRER.

Asistio said it was too early to pass judgment on Dy, whom he described as a "principled man" and "could not be bought."

"That I can guarantee. He has his own mind," said the opposition lawmaker.

But Asistio refused to comment on whether the former governor was indeed present during the supposed meeting between Ms Arroyo and the Comelec officials.

"I can't preempt whatever statement he will make. That's confidential," said the lawmaker, who admitted talking with Dy almost "every day" since he left him in the United States last month.

"We had a lot of conversations which were made in utmost confidentiality. But if invited by the Senate or the House, he will come. He will not lie," he said.

Formal invitation

Asistio stressed that his friend was willing to return to the country once summoned to appear in any congressional inquiries. "But he said that he will not voluntarily appear before (the Senate). There must be a formal invitation," he said.

So far, Cruz has presented five witnesses before senators and is working on a new one who could purportedly link the President to jueteng operations.

He said he had been told by Sen. Manuel Villar, co-chair of the Senate inquiry, that the hearings would resume as soon as the prelate's new witness becomes available.

Cruz said the new witness had already recorded his testimony on video but had yet to execute an affidavit or meet with him. He refused to give more details.

Malacañang says charges ...

From page A1

cal affairs, Gabriel Claudio, told reporters that the Palace was looking into the possibility of taking legal action against Zuce.

Claudio said he was not discounting the possibility that politics was behind the new controversy, "given the pattern of these political developments and incidents."

Never-ending witch-hunt

"We deplore this kind of situation, we deplore this kind of environment and it does look like a never-ending witch-hunt and a bottomless effort on the part of certain political elements to drag the President into a thesis that they have already formulated ... that they want the public to believe," he said.

Claudio also said it was apparent that Zuce emerged just now with his allegations because the person who could be in the best position to clarify things, former political adviser Jose Ma. Rufino, was in the hospital in critical condition. *(See story on front page.)*

Claudio said Rufino, now the executive director of Lakas, was in the hospital ailing from liver cancer. Rufino took in Zuce as part of his staff when he was still the presidential liaison officer.

Claudio said Zuce was a "mere functionary'" and thus, it was impossible for him to attend such a meeting with the President in her La Vista house in Quezon City, as the latter claimed.

"If any such meeting did occur in the house of the President for the purpose of handing out bribe money to officials of Comelec more than a year ago why was it never leaked out to the media?" he asked.

5 more witnesses

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the opposition had five other possible witnesses who could corroborate Zuce's claim.

Escudero said the opposition was not going to disclose all its witnesses until the impeachment trial of the President in the Senate. He also said the witnesses feared for their families' safety.

Cibac party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva said that the opposition would move to have Zuce invited to appear at the resumption of the House hearings on the "Gloriagate" tapes tomorrow.

Cebu Provincial Election Supervisor Edwin Cadungog urged Zuce to identify the 27 provincial and regional poll officers who allegedly received bribes.

"I assure you that I am not affected by this because I am just doing my job and I am not involved in any anomaly," Cadungog said.

Prove claims

Former Zamboanga Sibugay Election Supervisor Teofisto Elnas also dared Zûce to prove his claims.

"I want him to prove it in a proper forum, file a case against us, not through media," Elnas told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"P30,000? Jesus Christ!" was Elnas' reaction when told of the amount that Zuce claimed was given to the election officers.

Elnas said he would never tarnish his name and career for P30,000.

Misamis Oriental supervisor Carlito Ravelo denied having been invited to the President's La Vista home, along with Lordino Salvaña of Bukidnon and Joseph Hamilton Cuevas of Lanao del Norte. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Maricel Casiño, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo carries Ariana Zen See during the launching in Malacañang of the National Plan on Infant and Young Child Feeding on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Poverty, not politics, RP's main problem—Rosales

From page A1

cording to the prelate.

Quietly, poverty has gone from bad to worse, he said.

"It disturbs me as a pastor and as a shepherd," he told reporters in a weekend interview. "I was shocked to learn that about 70 percent of Filipinos are poor. There has never been this number of poor people in the Philippines."

Rosales said poverty should attract greater attention from the government and the public than the political turmoil sparked by allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had cheated in the 2004 elections.

The 72-year-old bishop, who could be the country's next cardinal, earlier said that getting rid of the scandal-ridden Arroyo administration was not the cure-all to the country's raging problems.

Poverty beyond compare

Instead, he called for a massive cleansing of misguided values, a kind of purge that would eliminate the "culture of wastefulness and destruction" and uplift lives.

Rosales became more convinced that poverty—not politics—was the main problem when he recently visited a poor community in Pasay, supposedly a bustling city.

"What we know about poverty will not compare to what I saw," he said, recalling the sight of a family nestled in a half-kilometer tunnel near Maricaban.

"How can we endure our countrymen living that way? It was noontime but I thought it was midnight. You'll never see daylight in that tunnel."

But gamblers rake in money

The government should confront "this kind of poverty, which is near destitution," he said.

Rosales said he simply could not accept that the poor should be left to their own devices while corrupt public officials, gambling operators and drug lords raked in huge amounts of money.

"At the back of our mind, we know that money is just being wasted and stolen," he said.

Take the case of gambling, legal or illegal, that thrives all over the country, the bishop said.

"There is so much gambling in the Philippines," he lamented. "Do you ever calculate how much money is lost in '*sabong*,' which is supposedly legal? Every municipality has a cockpit, every Sunday the people are there."

'Too much destructiveness'

Rosales commended fellow Archbishop Oscar Cruz's efforts to stamp out "jueteng," saying there was "too much destructiveness in our culture."

Besides jueteng, there were other lucrative forms of gambling, such as "Last Two," "*tong-its*," off-track betting, mahjong, "*masiao*" and even the very popular bingo, he said. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A15.)*

Though gambling seems entrenched in Philippine culture, with jueteng running for generations, Rosales said this should never be an excuse for society to tolerate it, especially at the expense of the poor.

"We have to change the mentality of Filipinos," he said.

Rosales' determination is at the heart of his Pondo ng Pinoy project, a single-handed effort to solicit funds for the poor through a centavo-each-day donation from parishioners in the Archdiocese of Manila.

But more than the money, he explained that the project was meant to motivate people to care about the poor and really do something about it.

No coup risk, says US diplomat

From page A1

would not condone any extra-constitutional means to resolve the crisis, whether through a coup or people power.

Resorting to a coup, a "people power" revolt or martial rule to end the crisis would be counterproductive because ultimately it would "weaken institutions and weaken democracy in the Philippines," he said at a forum at the Manila Hotel hosted by the Foreign Correspondents of the Philippines.

Worst over

Asked to comment on Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's earlier pronouncement that the "worst is over" for Ms Arroyo, he said: "I'm hopeful that is correct, not sure what he meant by it, precisely."

Mussomeli said Bunye could be referring to the extraconstitutional means that did not happen. "No people power, no military coup, no martial law, in that sense he is correct. We are over the worst part of it," he said.

Mussomeli noted that the AFP's sense of "responsibility" following the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny had been "remarkable."

"This is another one of the great outcomes of this current crisis ... that they (AFP) are going to remain neutral," he said. "(It's) remarkably wonderful and shows Filipinos have come a long way from 2001 (Edsa II) and certainly from 1986 (Edsa I)."

The two people power uprisings ousted Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, with the AFP top brass—or factions of it—withdrawing support from their commander-in-chief.

Mussomeli commended the AFP for "saying they will ensure that the constitutional process is not interfered with."

But he said any crime committed by any official should be punished swiftly.

"There cannot be a sweeping under the rug things that are illegal, things that have been done wrongly. There also shouldn't be a delay in justice," he said.

In the impeachment case filed against Ms Arroyo last week, opposition lawmakers accused her of violating the Constitution, corruption, bribery and betrayal of public trust for allegedly using election officials to rig the May 2004 vote.

She also is accused of using the military and police to ensure her victory. Other charges include obstruction of justice, unexplained wealth, human rights violations, tax evasion, misuse of public funds, approval of flawed contracts and receiving illegal gambling payoffs to fund her campaign.

Ms Arroyo said she was ready to face an impeachment trial.

Not really neutral

Mussomeli said it was important for the United States to outline its stand in the current crisis "on supporting democracy and institution."

"To remain neutral in a pure sense is really dishonest in this instance, because what's important is that the institutions are protected and the people of the Philippines are protected," he said.

"That can't be if we remain so neutral that we wash our hands of the entire controversy."

While Ms Arroyo's popularity ratings were at an all-time low, "if she does the difficult decisions, reaches out to the right groups and forms coalitions (to get the country) forward I think she will turn it around," the diplomat said.

He said Washington's main concern was that the controversy would cause its Southeast Asian ally to lose momentum on key issues, including economic reform and combating corruption and terrorism.

He warned that the Philippines was "getting less and less attention in Southeast Asia" with just $170 million in foreign direct investment coming in last year, compared to an average of $3 billion going into other countries of a similar population and size.

Charter change

Moving on in a few days to a new post in Cambodia, Mussomeli is giving Charter-change proponents a reason to smile.

Commenting on the Arroyo administration's proposal to amend the Constitution to pave the way for a federal-parliamentary form of government, the US envoy noted that the parliamentary system had "worked very well" in democracies around the world while the presidential setup "tends to be more problematic."

He said, however, that the US government was in no position to declare what government system was best for Filipinos.

"What I could say is that the parliamentary system has worked very well in many democracies around the world," Mussomeli said.

He said countries run under such system "tend to have greater stability, statistically."

Mussomeli said any form of government for Filipinos was "fine with us" so long as their "voices are heard."'

Culture impedes progress

"There is no real panacea in this. There's always problems with any form of government and you really have to reform people as well as institutions," he stressed.

To his mind, cultural factors have also "impeded progress" in the Philippines since the restoration of democracy in 1986.

"I think Filipino culture and society is a victim of its own virtues," said the American diplomat, who was on his first Philippine assignment when the Marcos dictatorship fell.

"The strong sense of forgiveness ... can sometimes prevent a certain accountability and responsibility that any civil, modern society needs," he said.

"People were never held to account, no one with power or authority or money put into jail for very long. This is a problem."

While "it's good to be forgiving," he said, "there needs to be an accounting. People are too tolerant, too long suffering sometimes. These virtues have helped impede progress in the Philippines."

He said he would miss the Philippines, which he likened to a "big, noisy, boisterous" family.

With a report from AFP

Case vs 29 Oakwood rebs still 'alive'– AFP lawyers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE CASE against the 29 Oakwood mutiny leaders remains "alive and well" even if they had not been arraigned within the prescribed period, according to military prosecutors.

"This trial is not yet over," Col. Pedro Herrera-Davila told a court martial yesterday.

"Until a final verdict has been delivered, nothing is final. This trial is alive and well," he added.

The prosecution panel again raised the argument that the case has not prescribed under military laws.

This forced the six-member tribunal to postpone ruling on the dismissal of the charges against the "Magdalo" junior officers.

Court president Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon Jr. said they need to go through the "voluminous" motions by the defense and prosecution panels.

He said they would make their ruling on Thursday.

Defense lawyers brought up the two-year prescription period at the previous hearing on July 26.

Prosecutors argued that they had until that day to arraign all the 29 officers, a position upheld by the court.

But except for Lt. SG. Antonio Trillanes IV who was arraigned on July 20, the rest were not arraigned before the 15-hour marathon hearing ended.

Davila insisted yesterday that the court has a "clear as daylight mandate" to continue trying the case.

He cited section 69 of the manual for courts martial, which said the prescription count stopped when charges were filed on Nov. 10, 2004.

But defense lawyer Theodore Te said the Articles of War have superceded the court martial manual.

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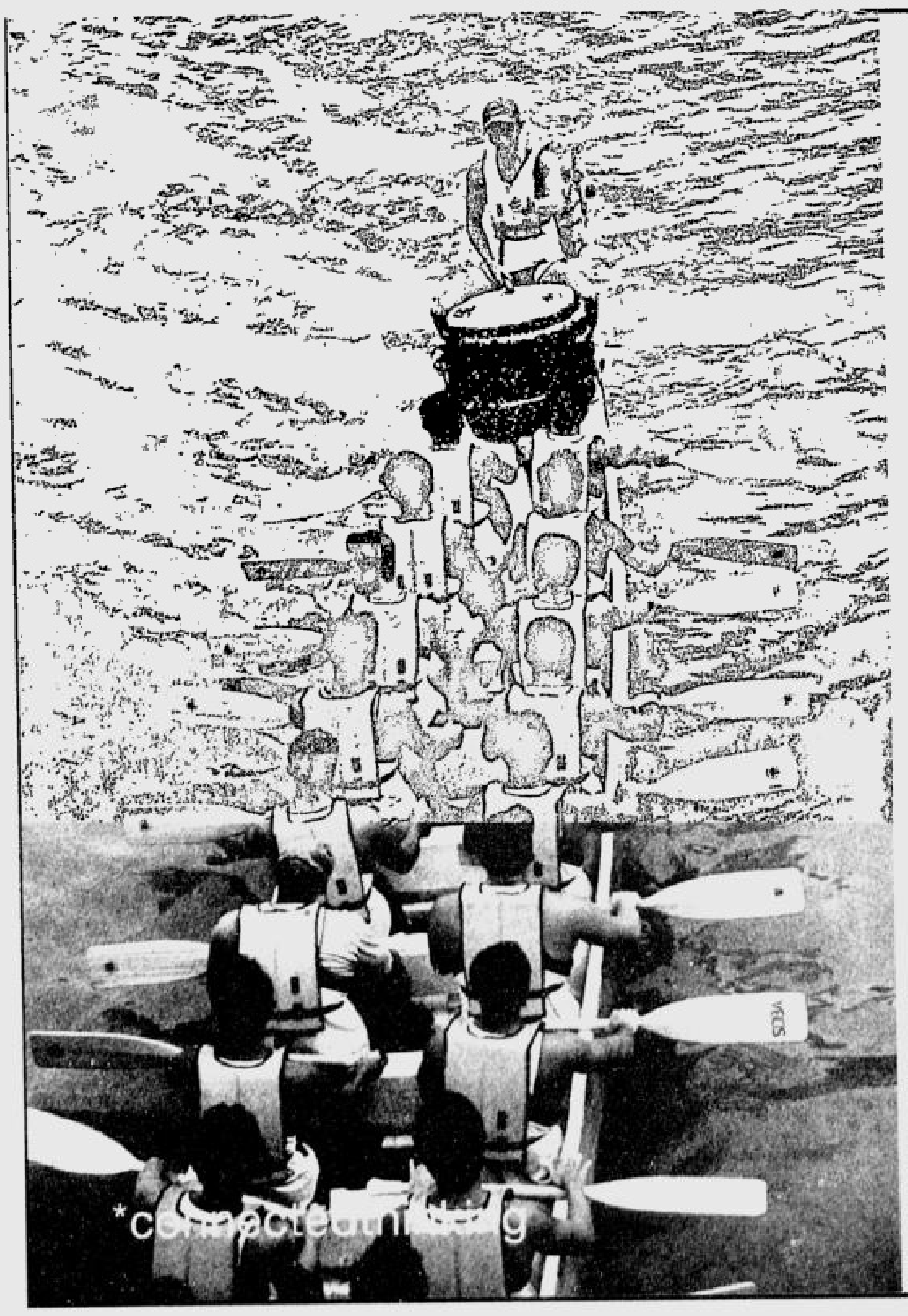

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Solon sulks; impeachment rules OKd

From page A1

dante Marcoleta poured out his feelings against the opposition hours before the House of Representatives adopted the impeachment rules of the 11th Congress that were applied to then President Joseph Estrada in 2000.

Following the old rules, the vote of a third of the 236-member chamber could automatically send the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate for trial, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said last night.

Without a single objection, the House approved the rules at 6:28 p.m., eliciting applause and cheers from members of both the majority and minority blocs.

Marcoleta said the justice committee should recognize the original impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano and not the amended complaint.

Forty-two lawmakers filed an amended impeachment case in the House on July 25, accusing Ms Arroyo of cheating and bribing her way to victory in last year's elections, benefiting from gambling payoffs, hiding real estate in the United States and complicity in the murder of political dissenters.

The number is short of the 79 signatures needed to send the case straight to the Senate for trial.

Without consent

Marcoleta, an administration ally who was the first congressman to endorse Lozano's complaint, said that the complaint could not be amended without his consent even if Lozano had "already agreed to such a move."

"They did not even bother to consult me," he said. "I was waiting for them to go first to me but they talked to Lozano as if he's the best person to talk to."

He said his endorsement deserved even a modicum of respect. San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, the lead impeachment prosecutor, according to Marcoleta, broke a promise to consult him.

Opposition lawmakers had dismissed Marcoleta's endorsement of Lozano's complaint as an administration ploy to prevent another impeachment complaint against the President.

Under the Constitution, no other impeachment complaint could be filed for a year after one had been initiated.

Guide

Marcoleta raised that prospect again yesterday, saying the proposed House rules on impeachment did not provide any guide on the complaint that the justice committee would recognize.

He noted that the second draft of the Rules on Procedure on Impeachment Proceedings contained a provision that a series of complaints can be consolidated into one that can be accepted as basis of the proceedings.

However, the House rules committee opted for the first draft, which did not contain that provision, he said.

"Which of the complaints will be recognized now? And under which rule? It is my humble submission that even if we are able to adopt rules, they will not provide a provision to address this particularly difficult situation," the party-list representative said.

Besides Lozano's complaint, lawyer Jose Rizalino Lopez filed an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo but Marcoleta said Lopez's complaint might be withdrawn.

Marcoleta insisted that the opposition's amended complaint did not supersede Lozano's initial complaint.

He said Lozano's complaint could not be amended since the House had yet to adopt its new impeachment rules.

It was not clear whether the rules adopted by the House last night dealt with Marcoleta's concerns.

Start of hearings

Nograles said the House adopted the rules of the 11th Congress so the House justice committee could start the hearings.

He said the House would be put in bad light if it adopted the proposed 13th Congress rules that would allow a lot of congressmen to interpellate the sponsor of the rules.

"That has been our position from the beginning. What is good for Erap should be good for President Arroyo," said a beaming House Minority Leader Francis Escudero. "That is essentially what the House has adopted."

Escudero said although he didn't want to preempt the justice committee, he said hearings should start by next week. "That is our hope, our desire, our request."

Amendment by substitution

It was the minority, through Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, that moved for the adoption of the old rules.

Rep. Edcel Lagman, principal sponsor of the proposed rules, said the committee on rules "accepted the motion," which was "in the nature of amendment by substitution."

Lagman said the majority arrived at the decision "in order to disabuse the mind of the public and members of this chamber that rules are being crafted and changed to suit or favor the respondent in the amended impeachment complaint."

Cayetano thanked Lagman for the majority's "statesmanship."

Nograles explained that once the minority gathered the required 79 signatures, the justice committee should stop the hearings and send the complaint to the plenary for action.

"That did not happen during Erap's time," said Nograles, stressing that although the rules called for it, then Speaker Manuel Villar "short-cut" the process by immediately sending the complaint to the Senate instead of seeking a roll call vote.

Ex-office mates remember comic absentee

From page A1

ture of his boss in his time record.

'Uncle Garci'

"He used to tell us that he was following up something in the Comelec with his uncle," said Gutierrez. Zuce at his press conference had referred to controversial former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano as an uncle.

Gutierrez described Zuce as a "sweet talker," and this was corroborated by their boss, Undersecretary Raymundo T. Roquero.

"He's a very funny fellow, sort of like Dolphy with his jokes," said Roquero based on the few chats he said he had with Zuce.

But Roquero found little use for Zuce because he was frequently absent. He said Zuce was forced to resign on May 19 for his chronic absences.

Only the truth

Zuce faxed in his irrevocable resignation letter.

"I asked him to write a job description so I'd know where I could use him, but I was disappointed with what he wrote so I made him a minor functionary in my office," Roquero said. Roquero said Zuce, as a technical analyst, worked as a contractual employee.

Roquero is convinced that Zuce was wheedled into making the accusations against the President.

"*Magpakatotoo ka*, Louie (Be truthful, Louie)," Roquero appealed to his former employee, using Zuce's nickname.

Rash action?

Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao said on ANC television: "We understand that he was facing grave financial problems and that he acted rashly."

Gutierrez claimed Zuce owed one office mate P50,000—which the office mate supposedly handed over as his share in a logging business in Mindanao.

Another employee purportedly has yet to collect on the P30,000 owed by Zuce for a cellular phone unit he bought recently. "Hopefully, they can start collecting on their debts," Gutierrez said.

Children at play

At a law office where Zuce made his exposé, his three children were innocently playing meters away, unmindful that in a nearby room, their father was blasting his way into the headlines.

Zuce said it was fear for his and his family's safety that made him speak out.

He had just answered four questions from reporters after reading his prepared statement when he bolted from his seat and rushed out of the room, pushing his way through media people blocking his path.

Cameramen pursued him.

Legal counsel Liwayway Vinzons-Chato lost her cool and yelled at journalists. She later said sorry—but the commotion had damaged her shoes.

Impeachment witness

"We have gathered information that we are being monitored. We still need him alive," she later told reporters.

But she said Zuce was ready to testify at the impeachment trial of Ms Arroyo.

Zuce, 30, worked as Presidential Staff Officer 4 under former presidential liaison officer for political affairs Jose "Joey" Rufino for three years, starting in 2001.

Thankful Chato

He said he was the one who introduced Garcillano to Rufino, who endorsed Garcillano to Ms Arroyo.

In September 2004, Zuce worked as staff officer 5 under Roquero. He resigned in May.

Chato refused to elaborate on Zuce's background, saying his testimony was more important.

But she said she knew him years ago when she ran for the Senate, and lost.

Zuce asked for her help "only very recently," said Chato.

She said she initially planned to ask some bishops to help hide Zuce but the plan was later called off.

"I am thankful we have somebody like him who believes that it is important now to come out for the truth," Chato said. She called her witness a "hero."

Graft-buster leads Ramon Magsaysay awards

From page A1

sistence as a senator that Thailand respect the rights and attend humanely to the needs of its least advantaged citizens," the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation's board of trustees said.

His father, Puey Ungphakorn, was one of the architects of the modern Thai state.

The younger Ungphakorn turned his attention to social issues during the politically turbulent 1970s, founding the Thai Volunteer Service in 1980 to expose privileged university graduates to the rural poor and the nongovernment organizations working with them.

In 1991, he founded the AIDS-Access Foundation, which pioneered in providing confidential counseling for people with HIV/AIDS and their families, and pushing for effective and affordable treatment.

Ungphakorn was elected to the Senate in 2000 on support from the NGO and HIV/AIDS communities.

Dr. V. Shanta, another public service awardee, was honored for her work in turning the Cancer Institute in Chennai, India, into "a center of excellence and compassion for the study and treatment of cancer in India."

Center of excellence

Shanta had only one other colleague when the Cancer Institute was founded in Chennai, India, in 1954 with only a dozen beds. Today, she is executive chair of what has grown into a 248-bed hospital and research center. Services are free or subsidized for 60 percent of the 100,000 annual patients.

"Learn to accept that you are good and that from you a lot of good can happen," said Shanta, 78, who still sees patients, performs surgery and is on call 24 hours a day.

Sombath Somphone of Laos, winner of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for community leadership, was recognized for "his hopeful efforts to promote sustainable development in Laos by training and motivating its young people to become a generation of leaders."

The Laotian awardee is the founder and executive director of the Participatory Development Training Center.

Mathiur Rahman of Bangladesh, founder and editor of the newspaper Prothom Alo, won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts. He was praised "for his wielding the power of the press to crusade against acid-throwing to stir Bangladeshis to help its many victims."

About 300 people, many of them young women, are permanently disfigured every year in Bangladesh in attacks often motivated by spite after victims reject the attackers sex, marriage or suitable dowries.

Yoon Hye-ran of South Korea, founder of the Citizens Opening the World for Welfare, won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for emergent leadership. She was cited for "her catalytic role in enabling (her hometown) Chenoan's civil society to exercise its social responsibilities dynamically and democratically."

There was no awardee this year in the peace and international understanding category.

Reports from AP and AFP

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Totally false . . .

From page A1

leased by Malacañang, former presidential liaison officer for political affairs Jose Ma. Rufino said allegations by one of his assistants that election officials were paid to ensure Ms Arroyo's poll victory were "totally false."

Palace officials released Rufino's statement after his former staff member, Michaelangelo Zuce, alleged that payoffs were made to several officials of the Commission on Elections at Ms Arroyo's residence. *(See banner story on front page.)*

Rufino's statement said: "I am shocked and very much saddened by the wild accusations made today by Michaelangelo Zuce, who had been a technical assistant in my office."

The statement appealed to Zuce to "retract his falsehoods" and said that he was "condemning by publicity not only the President but hardworking regional and provincial officers of the Comelec."

"I and my office have never been involved in influencing, much less bribing, Comelec officials to support Lakas-NUCD candidates including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," said the statement.

Rufino, confined at the Medical City in Pasig, said Zuce had financial problems and that he was sad that he was not able to help the latter financially as he had asked him.

The former presidential aide is seriously ill, according to friends who saw him at the hospital.

Two of them were Zuce himself and Rufino's *compadre*, former Transportation Undersecretary Pelayo Batung. They both paid Rufino a visit last week.

Rufino still recognized his visitors, but could hardly talk to them, Batung said. As of yesterday, Rufino was in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Zuce and Batung were at the hospital almost at exactly the same time, but they didn't know each other. They were both there one afternoon.

Zuce showed up at the hospital to inform Rufino that he would go public with his documents.

Though a regular visitor, Batung went to see his *compadre* last week to relay a request from opposition leaders for Rufino to testify against Ms Arroyo. The opposition talked to Batung through lawyer Roy Señeres, former chair of the National Labor Relations Commission.

RUFINO

"Judging from his body language, he seemed OK [with the request], but it was physically impossible for him to say that. It may be physically impossible for him to [testify] now," Batung told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Señeres had asked Batung to try to convince Rufino to bear witness against Ms Arroyo as the opposition tried to ready Zuce's testimony and other pieces of evidence against her.

"We want to find out if he knows anything about the truth," Señeres said when asked for comment. "The truth he would say would set the Filipino people free."

"He is an old friend. We used to regularly send each other text messages. But out of respect for his condition, let's not talk about it now," he said.

Rufino and Batung both served the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos. Rufino was one of Ramos' political advisers and Batung was the deputy of Transportation Secretary Amado Luis Lagdameo Jr.

Opposition leaders tried to convince Zuce to come out the past three weeks. He first sent feelers to an opposition lawyer, saying he had "damaging documents" about Rufino and Ms Arroyo.

"He is a kind, smart boy and shows political sense," said the opposition lawyer of his first impressions about him.

"He is a politically aware guy. He has been sent to a number of seminars organized by the Christian Democrats."

Zuce showed reluctance weeks later, saying he feared for his and family's safety and livelihood. The opposition waited until some leaders reportedly promised him security and some financial assistance.

Zuce, who hails from Mindanao, is married with three children. Last week, he was fetched from Mindanao by a team of opposition leaders.

Politics takes its toll on business: Confidence down

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OPTIMISM among local business executives has dropped as the political crisis has taken its toll on the economy, according to a poll conducted by the Makati Business Club.

The MBC's Executive Outlook Survey, conducted July 1 to 29, reported that 71 percent of executives polled felt that the economy would likely grow at a lower rate than last year's.

"Business optimism at the beginning of the year has reversed into an onset of pessimism in the second half as the country has slipped into a prolonged political crisis," the MBC said.

In an MBC survey in January, 58.6 percent of respondents said they believed the economy would grow at the same pace or better than in 2004.

In the latest survey, over 86 percent also felt that inflation would be higher this year than in 2004, up from 73 percent in the last survey.

MBC said the average headline inflation rate rose to 8.3 percent in the first six months from 4.4 percent a year ago, mainly due to the uptrend in world oil prices.

Moreover, about 63 percent of respondents expected the average 91-day Treasury bill rate to rise above last year's 7.34 percent.

The sentiment on the interest rate remained the same as in January even if the bellwether rate improved to 6.64 percent in the first half from 6.93 percent a year ago.

"The mood, however, may have changed following the temporary suspension of the expanded value-added tax," MBC said.

At least two-thirds of those polled expected the peso to depreciate against the dollar by 5 percent for the rest of the year.

In last month's survey, about 54 percent expected investment to decrease, while those who believed exports would exceed last year's earnings slid to 43.6 percent from 53 percent in January.

Likewise, those who believed imports would exceed last year's volume slid to 43 percent from 60 percent in January.

The MBC is among business groups that have urged Ms Arroyo to resign amid allegations that she committed election fraud and that members of her family have taken illegal gambling kickbacks.

A total of 94 of MBC's member executives responded to the survey, which used questionnaires sent by fax or e-mail. No margin of error was given. *With AP*

Bishop against 'jueteng,' not GMA

DAGUPAN CITY—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday said his anti-"jueteng" crusade is not directed against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It is not. It is against any illegal numbers game under any guise. It is pro-integrity, prodecency, pro-honesty, pro-morality—whoever the president is," Cruz said.

In a press statement, Cruz said he was sorry if his crusade was perceived as "politically motivated [although] it is clear that jueteng has its many and serious sociopolitical implications."

"I am sorry if those in positions of power, authority and influence consider and allege that the antijueteng crusaders are destabilizers, are antigovernment. This is their problem. The crusade is simply antijueteng," he said.

But Cruz said he was not willing to talk to Ms Arroyo about the issue because "sad to say, she has become less and less credible and more and more people are [becoming] disrespectful of her."

The bishop said he turned down a request from a politician for him and PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao to sign a memorandum of agreement to stop jueteng. The signing, Cruz said, would have been witnessed by the President.

"I would like jueteng stopped first before I sign anything. In our culture, the word of honor has apparently lost its meaning. Even written instruments like MOAs [memorandums of agreement] are not given much value. We are losing our moral moorings," he said.

He said there was no need for a MOA to stop jueteng. "Even a barangay captain can stop jueteng in his barangay. A mayor can stop jueteng in his town or city. Why can't the President stop it in the country?"

Since its foundation in 2001, the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, which Cruz heads, has been working to free the country "from the gross immorality of jueteng," he said.

Cruz said: "The crusade has absolutely neither any ideological finality nor any political interest." *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Michaelangelo's tales: Money, Pajeros, Garci cell phone

FOLLOWING is an account provided by former Malacañang technical assistant Michaelangelo Zuce of how Commission on Elections officials allegedly worked—and were paid—to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2004 election victory:

2001

- FEBRUARY: Michaelangelo "Louie" S. Zuce begins his stint as Presidential Staff Officer 4 at the Office of the Presidential Liaison Officer for Political Affairs headed by Secretary Jose Ma. A. Rufino.

2002

- October: Zuce introduces Virgilio Garcillano, an uncle, to Rufino.
- Oct. 10: Zuce's office presents Ms Arroyo with a special project signed by Rufino on the "Nationwide Consultation Of Election Officers Under the Stewardship of Atty. Garcillano." The project is operational in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
- Oct. 14: Rufino endorses Garcillano's appointment in a letter to Ms Arroyo, upon an endorsement by Assistant Secretary Ahmad M. Bayam.
- November: Consultation meeting is held in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, attended by 12 Comelec provincial election supervisors (PES). It was also attended by Zuce and Ferdinand Mahusay, political officer for Region 9.
- Another consultation meeting is held in General Santos City. It is attended by 12 election officials, mostly PES and including the political officer of the ARMM and Zuce.
- Dec. 13: Third consultation meeting is held in Tubod. The meeting discusses the political situation in Mindanao, including who are the politicians for or against Ms Arroyo.

Before the meeting ends, Garcillano distributes envelopes containing P20,000 for regional directors and PES, P15,000 for city election officers, P10,000 for municipal election officers and P5,000 for selected staff of Comelec Mindanao. According to Garcillano, they are being given by Ms Arroyo in appreciation of their expression of support for her candidacy.

2003

- Latter half of 2003: Small planning meeting of RDs and PES of Mindanao is held at Grand Boulevard Hotel to discuss Ms Arroyo's candidacy.

Garcillano again appeals for support for Ms Arroyo for the 2004 elections; Mindanao election officers readily agreed on condition that Garcillano be appointed Comelec commissioner.

Undersecretary Antonio Gatuslao gives assurance that the appointment would soon be released. Zuce is assigned to distribute to the RDs and PES white envelopes containing P17,000 each before the caucus ended.

2004

- January: Another meeting of the RDs and PES from Mindanao is held. Garcillano requests Zuce's office to provide for funds for a caucus of the election officials on Jan. 10 at Grand Boulevard Hotel in Roxas Boulevard.

Meeting in January

- Jan. 6: Zuce writes to Rufino for the planning session. Zuce makes arrangement with the hotel, and with him are 23 election officers from Mindanao. Rufino does not attend the meeting but three of Zuce's office mates are sent in Rufino's behalf to distribute envelopes each containing P25,000 for the attendees.
- (A date in January) 5 p.m.: A coaster carrying all election officials, and a Land Cruiser, carrying Zuce and Agusan del Norte PES Francisco Pobe, arrive in Rothman Hotel in Malate.

On the way to La Vista, Zuce and company drop by McDonald's where Pobe introduces Zuce for the first time to (Lilia) Baby Pineda as Garcillano's nephew. Pineda asks Pobe to list all their names. The group stays there for one hour.

The group proceeds to La Vista, with Pineda's car going ahead of the two vehicles. With Pineda are Garcillano and Dy.

Ms Arroyo arrives

- 7 p.m.: The group arrives and is led to a lower level where dinner tables have been arranged.
- 9 p.m.: Ms Arroyo arrives. They eat dinner. After dinner, Pineda uses the list to introduce the officials one by one to Ms Arroyo. Also present are Garcillano and Dy.

MICHAELANGELO "Louie" S. Zuce faces the media with his lawyer, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, to confess that President Arroyo had knowledge of and direct participation in cheating during the 2004 elections. LYN RILLON

Ms Arroyo asks the RDs and PES to help her in the 2004 elections. The RDs and PES request Xerox machines which will be used in the elections. Some Mindanao election officials request vehicles. Pineda says she will take care of the matter.

White envelopes appear

Ms Arroyo bids the group goodbye, saying she has another engagement. As the group is about to leave, Pineda gives Region 4 Director Johnny Icaro white envelopes.

They open the envelopes in the vehicles and discovers that each contains P30,000.

- Feb. 7: Garcillano is appointed Comelec commissioner, replacing Luzviminda Tancangco.
- Feb. 13-22: Garcillano asks Zuce to call Pineda so Zuce can go to Pineda's house in Greenhills. Zuce is supposed to get the cellular phone Pineda is giving Garcillano.

The Hotline

At Pineda's house, her secretary hands Zuce a box containing the phone, and asks him to sign a receipt. Zuce asks the secretary why the box is already opened. The secretary says the SIM card is already inside the phone, and that they already have the phone number.

Zuce delivers the phone to Garcillano. The latter tells Zuce the phone will be where Ms Arroyo, the Pineda couple, and other prominent persons will be calling him.

Garcillano refers to the phone as their hotline.

Zuce finalizes the budgetary requirements proposal upon orders from Garcillano and Rufino. It takes him some time to finalize the proposal because of the changes in the amounts, and the addition of regional attorneys. He also revises the proposal after Garcillano told him there was no funding from Rufino.

The Pajeros

- Feb. 23: Zuce and Atty. Oscar Rabanes, Garcillano's friend, meet Pineda at Chili's Restaurant in Greenhills. Garcillano had asked Zuce to tell Pineda that Rabanes would receive the vehicles to be sent to Mindanao. The vehicles would be used by Comelec officials involved in the special operation.
- (After a few weeks): Zuce learns from Garcillano that according to Ms Arroyo, Pagcor Chair Efraim Genuino, not Pineda, will provide the vehicles.
- (No date): Garcillano asks Zuce to accompany him as he meets Genuino at Shangri-La Makati for breakfast. Genuino arrives late. Garcillano leaves angrily because of a Comelec en banc session.
- (No date): While Zuce and company are waiting for the funding to be made available under the budget proposal, four three-door Mitsubishi Pajeros and two military-type jeeps are delivered to Rabanes in Cagayan de Oro City. These had been parked for a few days at the side of the old Comelec building and at the parking lot on Macapagal Boulevard.

Bundles of money

On the day when Garcillano receives the initial funding for the special operations, he calls Zuce to a condominium unit on Macapagal Boulevard. There Garcillano shows him a cabinet full of plastic-wrapped bundles of P1,000 bills. Garcillano says the money totaled P12 million, and adds that the amount needed for the special operations will be around P25 to P37 million. Garcillano instructs him to tell his boss that he will be leaving for Mindanao.

Garcillano gives Zuce P500,000, which is to be distributed as follows: P100,000 for Zuce's family, P100,000 for his expenses in Mindanao, and P50,000 for Rabanes. He will be telling Zuce to whom he shall give certain amounts from the balance.

- (No date): Zuce frequently accompanies Garcillano in his meetings. Zuce hears from Garcillano that it was Mrs. Baby Pineda, wife of Bong Pineda, who was asked by higher-ups to help in the confirmation of Garcillano.

Once, Garcillano calls Zuce to request from Rufino funds to cover the hotel accommodation of 27 PES from Mindanao in Manila. Zuce's office could only cover one day's hotel accommodation.

Zuce is asked by Garcillano to accompany him to a meeting at a house in Greenhills near Chili's and Starbucks, which turns out to be that of Bong and Baby Pineda. Discussed during the meeting are: planned big special operation under Garcillano, who will support him, who will be assigned to monitor areas of operation, the amount of funding involved and the vehicles to be sent to Mindanao for use by Comelec officials.

Zuce is asked what line of cell phones he and Garcillano are using, and is told to use Globe.

The break

2005

- May: Zuce resigns from the Political Coalition Affairs Office, headed by Raymundo T. Roquero.
- Aug. 1: Zuce signs an affidavit where he gave the aforementioned information. Included is his confirmation that the conversations in the "Gloriagate" tape took place. He said Garcillano had told him about the conversations and about calls from the field and the canvassing.

Zuce said he had also been in the areas when the conversations occurred. Some of the conversations were reportedly related to him by PES after the latter's talks with Garcillano.

He also said he had been offered P20,000 a month for six months to keep his silence, but he was disturbed and scared for his and his family's safety. At that time, he said, former General (Hermogenes) Ebdane was looking for him.

Source: Aug. 1, 2005 Sworn Statement of Michaelangelo Zuce

Compiled by Cyril Bonabente and Erika Sarmiento, PDI Research

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Witness links GMA, poll fraud, 'jueteng'

From page A1

participation in it," said Zuce, who said fear for his life forced him to make the disclosure. His cheeks throbbed as he spoke, an obvious sign of nervousness.

"There are a lot of people spreading black propaganda about me," Ms Arroyo said, "especially those who are angry or who want something, who always need money."

She added: "It is easy for them to sell their testimonies."

ABS-CBN broke its live coverage on national television of Zuce's news conference to air Ms Arroyo's remarks before health workers that apparently referred to allegations she rigged last year's vote and charges her family received jueteng, or illegal gambling, payoffs.

Ms Arroyo has confessed hers is the voice caught in the wiretap, but denied any wrongdoing. Revelations of the twin scandals over the past two months have triggered the worst political crisis of Ms Arroyo's presidency and demands that she step down.

Zuce's disclosures came as Ms Arroyo appeared to be weathering the political storm, challenging her opponents to impeach her and proposing the formation of a "truth commission" to investigate the allegations against her and those behind them who she said were conspiring to unseat her.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, former Jesuit provincial and known constitutionalist, said it was improper for a sitting president to tender a dinner for election officials before a balloting.

"If it were true, and I emphasize this since this has yet to be verified, then it is very improper," said Bernas. As to whether such impropriety is cause for impeachment, he said, "the best thing to do is to bring it to the impeachment trial where there'd be an opportunity to cross-examine him."

"It's raw information, as it is," said Bernas of Zuce's allegations.

Referring to the claim that Pineda handed out money to the participants, Bernas said, "What was the money for? Was it a bribe? Was she acting for the President?"

Pineda herself has denied previous news reports that she had given bribes to election officials in Ms Arroyo's house.

'Meeting never took place'

"That meeting never took place," said Ms Arroyo's political adviser Gabriel Claudio. "She is not in the habit of inviting Comelec officials and she is not capable of committing bribery or fraud in that election or any election for that matter."

Zuce had been staff officer in the Palace from 2001 until he resigned three months ago. His statements threaded most of the allegations already hurled against the President.

He said he was a member of a "special project" in Mindanao created as early as October 2002 to work for the reelection of Ms Arroyo—an initiative that proceeded in spite of her announcement in December 2002 that she would not run.

Zuce said he had introduced Garcillano, then a regional director in Mindanao, to Rufino the same month the special project was established.

Garcillano headed the project, apparently expecting to be appointed as commissioner. Despite stiff opposition from some lawmakers and officials, the President appointed Garcillano as Comelec commissioner in February 2004.

Zuce also said he was with Garcillano when he spoke in the wiretaped conversations. His nickname, Louie, was also mentioned in the tape several times.

Several days ago, Zuce called Garcillano to tell him of his plan to speak out, said his counsel Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, an opposition lawyer and a former Arroyo ally. "*Bahala ka na* (It's up to you)," was his uncle's short response, according to Chato.

Garcillano's whereabouts

Chato said she heard that Garcillano was now in London, but Rep. Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur, who had been in touch with the former election official, said Garcillano was still in the Philippines.

Pichay said Garcillano had been summoned to appear before a House inquiry on the wiretapping. "It would be hard for him to leave the country, even through the backdoor."

Although he was with the Comelec, Garcillano acted as though he were an Arroyo political operative, according to documents Zuce distributed to reporters.

The documents showed Garcillano organized national consultations with election officials, asking them if Ms Arroyo could count on them for her election victory and distributing money, equipment and vehicles with funds provided by Pineda, the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and Rufino's office.

Pagcor spokesperson Dodie King denied the gaming agency's involvement in election fraud. He said Pagcor funds were under strict audit.

Rufino, in a hospital for a serious illness, issued a statement late yesterday denying as "totally false" Zuce's claims. *(See story on front page.)*

The special project was initially given a budget of P12 million, Zuce said, quoting Garcillano. He said Garcillano thought the money was not enough and that he needed around P25 million to P37 million.

Before the meeting with Ms Arroyo, Zuce said he had arranged the accommodation for the 27 election officials from Mindanao at the Rothman Hotel in Malate, Manila. He said Rodolfo Pineda personally gave him P150,000 cash for the bill. Zuce said he himself had received thousands from the alleged jueteng lord.

Role in elections

In his affidavit, Zuce said he played a key role in allegedly rigging last year's elections.

Aside from arranging meetings, he was also personally assigned "to help local candidates" under Ms Arroyo, as well as "candidates for national office, including certain party lists."

But Zuce said he was later told to concentrate on making sure Ms Arroyo would win in Mindanao.

He said it was his job to "monitor all officials and employees of Comelec and coordinate with the provincial election supervisors to ensure Ms Arroyo's win in the area." He said he was tasked with "talk[ing] to them to find ways to reduce her loss or to add votes in her bailiwicks."

"From my personal knowledge and direct information, it is true and correct that there were election results altered and manipulated, not matching Statements of Votes from the precincts to municipal canvass to provincial canvass," he added.

Zuce said he was forced to testify after he heard from Rufino that Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane wanted to talk to him.

He said he was also offered P20,000 for six months to keep quiet. He did not elaborate where the offer came from.

"I appeal to President Arroyo, Secretary Rufino, Commissioner Garcillano and the other Comelec officials involved in the special project in Mindanao to please tell the truth, confess and repent, as I am doing, for what we have done to the nation. This is the only way to heal our divided nation," he said.

Documents

Documents released by Zuce include:

- A confidential Palace memo, dated Oct. 11, 2002, citing Garcillano for delivering "almost every electoral pleasure of the administration" since the 1992 presidential elections, and for "extensively serving and protecting the interest[s] of [the] Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, particularly in Mindanao."
- A Nov. 28, 2003 note by Rufino to Ms Arroyo, where he commended Garcillano, saying, "He will be a great asset to you. He has proven track record & can deliver."
- Note showing Garcillano started working for Ms Arroyo in 1992 when she ran for senator.
- Appointment as election commissioner in February 2004 was "both a reward for past services and an incentive for him to deliver to her that year's presidential elections."
- A paper dated Jan. 8, 2003 showing that sometime in late 2002 and on the President's own initiative, Garcillano held a series of Malacañang-funded, Mindanao-wide "consultations."

The meetings were supposedly aimed at securing "a workable game plan for the 2004 elections" and the "full and unqualified support" of Comelec field officers for Ms Arroyo's eventual presidential bid. *With reports from Jerry Esplanada, Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora, Christine O. Avendaño and Michelle V. Remo*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bin Laden funded Australian Embassy bombing, report says

SYDNEY—A man accused of involvement in last year's bombing of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta told police that al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden funded the attack with Australian currency, reports said Monday.

A package containing some $10,000 (US$7,500) in cash was delivered by courier to Malaysian master bomb-maker Azahari Husin ahead of the attack which killed 11 people, The Australian newspaper said.

The paper said it had gained access to the transcript of an Indonesian police interrogation of a man named Rois, also known as Iwan Dharmawan, who is facing terrorism charges in connection with the attack.

"According to Dr. Azahari's explanation to me at the time, the funds came from Osama bin Laden and they were sent by a courier," Rois, a 30-year-old trader from West Java, was quoted as saying.

Azahari and another Malaysian, Noordin Mohammed Top, are among the most wanted men in Asia, accused of leading roles in several terror attacks, including the Bali bombing in 2002 that killed 202 people.

Rois said Australia was attacked because it was an ally of the United States and had sent troops to support the US-led invasion of Iraq.

"The intention to bomb the Australian Embassy was because the Australian government is the American lackey most active in supporting American policies to slaughter Muslims in Iraq," he was quoted as saying.

Australian Attorney-General Philip Ruddock said he was not surprised at the news that Bin Laden had funded the attack, saying there were strong links between al-Qaida and the Jemaah Islamiyah group accused of carrying out the bombing.

But he said that he rejected the suggestion that Australia's involvement in Iraq had made it a target.

The government of Prime Minister John Howard has, however, embarked on a major review of Australia's counterterrorism capabilities in the wake of the London bombings earlier this month.

It is examining tough new anti-terror legislation and security measures including increased video surveillance of public places and more bag searches on public transport. *AFP*

Osama still commanding attacks, says Saudi envoy

LONDON—Osama bin Laden is still giving direct orders for al-Qaida attacks, Saudi Arabia's next ambassador to the United States said on Sunday.

Outgoing Saudi ambassador to Britain Prince Turki al-Faisal said some of the most recent attacks attributed to al-Qaida in the oil-rich kingdom had been directly ordered by the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

"Some of the events (attacks) that occurred in the kingdom over the past 2 1/2 years were under the immediate directions of the leadership of al-Qaida, particularly Bin Laden," Turki said on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia has been battling a two-year wave of violence by supporters of Saudi-born Bin Laden's al-Qaida network, who are trying to drive Westerners out of the world's biggest oil exporter and destabilize the pro-Western ruling family.

Many top militants have been killed or captured and the pace of attacks has slowed, but Western diplomats say the threat remains.

Turki said some al-Qaida groups operated autonomously because they were in places where it was difficult to communicate with al-Qaida's central command.

"In such cases, it is left to those in charge of those networks to decide when, how and where to take their measures," Turki said. *Reuters*

Saudi King Fahd dies in hospital

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia's King Fahd died on Monday after years of ill health and a turbulent reign that saw the oil-rich kingdom face up to Islamic extremism.

His half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, who has been de facto ruler for a decade, was anointed his successor.

Medical sources said that King Fahd, aged in his 80s, died in hospital at dawn.

The king had been admitted to King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh in late May for "medical tests" and was said to be suffering from respiratory problems caused by pneumonia.

Believed to have been born in 1923, Fahd took charge in 1982 of a vast kingdom which is the world's largest petroleum exporter and holds a quarter of global oil reserves.

He guided Saudi Arabia through the most turbulent era in its history, which saw the kingdom survive two Gulf Wars only to have to confront the menace of Islamic extremism.

Two years of strife perpetrated by Islamic extremists has claimed the lives of 90 civilians, 42 security personnel and 113 militants, according to official figures.

Saudi's alliance with the United States was sorely tested by the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the US, in which 15 out of the 19 attackers were Saudi.

Designated as next in line after King Faisal's assassination in 1975, Fahd was running the country under the rule of his ailing brother King Khaled from 1975 to 1982.

After the stroke in 1995 confined him to a wheelchair, the king delegated the day-to-day business of government to Abdullah. *AFP*

DIANA, the Princess of Wales, walks with the Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in the Al Yamamah Palace during an audience in this November 17, 1986 photo.

REUTERS

Sudan VP, ex-rebel leader Garang dead

KHARTOUM/KAMPALA—Sudan's first vice president and former rebel leader John Garang, who signed a deal this year to end Africa's longest civil war, died in a helicopter crash in southern Sudan, officials said on Monday.

The Sudan presidency said Garang, six of his companions and a crew of seven had died.

Members of Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Sudanese government vowed to press for peace.

"We are confident that the peace agreement will proceed as it was planned and drawn up and that the future of Sudan will remain a trust in our hearts and the hearts of the brothers in the movement (SPLM)," Sudanese president Omar Hassan al-Bashir said in a televised statement.

SPLM deputy leader Salva Kiir Mayardit told a news conference in Nairobi, where members wept in grief: "We will continue his vision for a peaceful Sudan... We want to assure everyone that the leadership and all cadres of the SPLM/SPLA will remain united and strive to faithfully implement the comprehensive peace agreement." *Reuters*

GARANG

China insists pig-borne disease is under control

BEIJING—The number of people infected by deadly swine flu in China has risen to 181 but health authorities sought on Monday to play down the impact, insisting that they had the outbreak under control.

The death toll stood at 34 on Sunday after confirmed or suspected cases of streptococcus suis bacteria, or swine flu, had been reported in 102 villages in the southwestern province of Sichuan, the Health Ministry said on its website.

Infections rose by seven on Sunday but no deaths were reported.

An online report by the official Xinhua news agency quoted a health official in Ziyang city, where the outbreak was first reported in June, as saying the rates of new infections and deaths had dropped and that the outbreak was under control.

Chinese reporters say they may no longer visit affected areas and newspapers have been told to use Xinhua reports.

Sichuan, the country's top pork-producing province, has been forced to suspend all exports of chilled and frozen pork from Ziyang and surrounding Neijiang prefecture to Hong Kong, which said on Sunday that another resident had contracted the disease.

It was the second local case in two months and took to 11 the number of infections reported to city authorities since May 2004. *Reuters*

If the main attraction is sex, Asia is the destination

UNDETERRED by the threat of deadly communicable diseases or the threat of being caught and shamed, thousands of men from Europe and the United States leave home every year looking for holiday sex.

It is an industry said to be worth billions annually.

A 1998 report by the International Labor Organization shows that 2 to 14 percent of the gross domestic product of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand is derived from sex tourism.

In Indonesia alone, sex tourism revenues can be as high as $3.3 billion.

Whether it is sex tours from Europe and America bound for Thailand, Costa Rica or eastern Europe, or Singaporeans catching the weekend ferry to Batam and Bintan, the quest for cheap overseas sex knows no bounds.

Most of today's organized sex tours originate from Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, Japan and South Korea. The top Asian sex destinations are Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Sri Lanka.

While prostitution may not be illegal in some of these countries, the rise of HIV/AIDS and child sex workers has seen human rights activists raising alarm.

Many are concerned because the Internet has pushed the industry to a new level. For many men, cyberspace is where they locate the holiday of their dreams, choosing from a host of online operators flogging sex tours brazenly.

Many of the online tour operators appear to be registered in the United States.

A "Mr. Peters" (not his real name), whose website offers a PO Box address in the United States, offered to answer some questions via e-mail on condition of anonymity. He was the only one to respond.

Mr. Peters explains that he takes about 80 people on sex tours to Asia every year.

For less than $3,000, men in the United States and Europe can join packages that include airfare, five to 10 nights' stay at "liberal-minded hotels," a guidebook, a local tour guide and "adult nightlife tours."

An online "review" written by someone who had sampled a tour recounted that tour members are escorted each night to various clubs where they can hook up with local girls.

Despite the hard work of the Thai government to change its image as a sex capital, many of Mr. Peters' tours wing their way to Bangkok and other sex-for-sale hotspots in Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, the Caribbean, South America and eastern Europe.

He insists that the services offered by his company are "above-board" but concedes that the business of sex tourism is "exploitative."

The tours would be illegal only if women were provided as part of the package, he adds.

Mr. Peters stresses that his company does not employ prostitutes, only a guide who is paid in US dollars to bring the men to nightclubs.

He justifies his activities by pointing out that Thai women who work in such clubs are there to "help their families financially and to find a nice person to marry."

In the sex capital of Bangkok, it is estimated that prostitution generates revenues of about $22 billion to $30 billion annually.

A May article in British-based monthly political magazine, Prospect, estimated that a "crude" way of measuring the extent of sex tourism in Thailand is simply to take a look at the discrepancy in numbers of males and females who visit the Land of Smiles each year.

Of all foreigners, 60 percent are male and 40 percent female. In particular, arrivals from wealthy nations such as the United States, Japan and Britain show a wider gap—nearly two males for every female in 2003.

Sex tourism is on the rise within Asia as well, with more businessmen from wealthy Asian nations such as Taiwan and South Korea headed for the Philippines and Thailand each year. *New York Times News Service*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2005
ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 235
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
OPINION
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Better way to Cha-cha

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has made a good start toward the amendment of the Constitution by announcing that she would form a consultative constitutional commission that would draft proposed amendments to the Charter. A commission could make a thorough study, then write the proposed amendments that would be considered either by a constitutional convention or Congress meeting as a constituent assembly.

She can follow that up by scheduling the election of delegates to the constitutional convention. She would be well advised to abandon her announced plan of leaving the job of amending the Constitution to Congress meeting as a constituent assembly.

Earlier this year, Ms Arroyo said she was in favor of a constitutional convention, but last month, after experiencing the most serious political crisis of her presidency, she changed her mind and said she was for a constituent assembly. Well, she can change her mind again and go for a constitutional convention, if she wants to promote the national interest.

In the first place, there is no need to speed up the amendment of the Constitution, unless it is going to be a part of a "graceful exit" for Ms Arroyo. She said in her recent State of the Nation Address: "The mode of Charter change is the exclusive prerogative of Congress. But a constituent assembly may well give our people the quickest reforms."

But why subject the Constitution, the fundamental law of the land, to a fast-track procedure? Proposed amendments to the Constitution should be discussed and debated thoroughly. The constitutional convention (or the constituent assembly, whichever mode is finally chosen) will be amending the fundamental law which will be the guiding light of the nation not only for this generation but for many generations yet to come. Certainly this task should be done not in haste, but with a great deal of deliberation and circumspection.

If we are to proceed slowly and with deliberation in amending the Constitution, then it is best done by a constitutional convention. A constituent assembly made up of the members of Congress would be an assembly motivated largely by self-interest. The legislators, once functioning as members of the constituent assembly, can be expected to promote and protect their personal, familial and parochial interests. They could not even pass a really effective land reform law. They would not even give up their wasteful and graft-ridden pork barrel. And now they would be expected to have the best interest of the nation at heart in amending the Constitution?

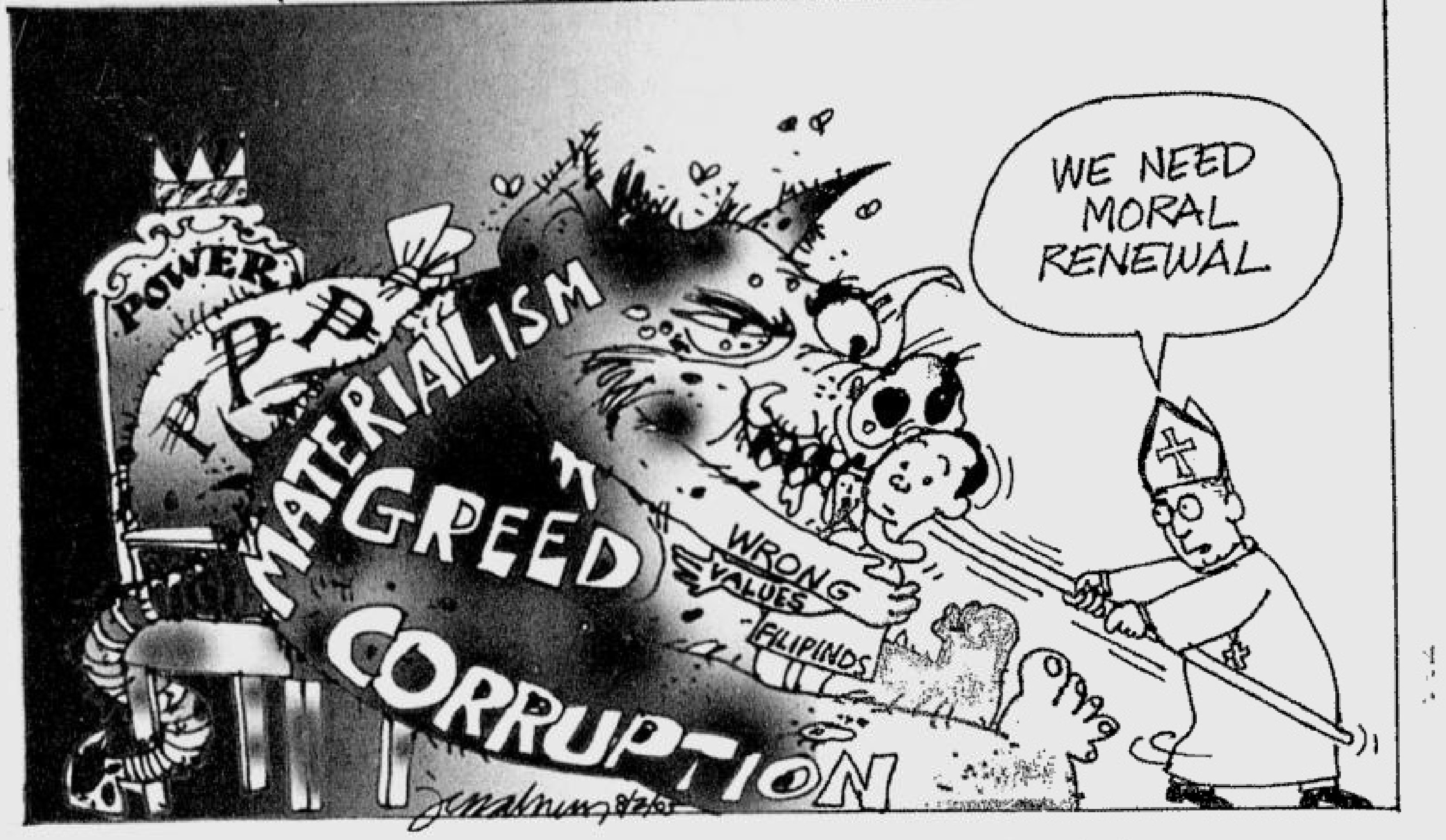
The Citizens for ConCon said that "without the perks and powers of Congress to protect, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention can be expected to be less self-serving, more objective, and thus more credible." INQUIRER columnist Juan Mercado has warned that a constituent assembly would be an assembly of self-seekers. He quoted H.L. Mencken, who said that an assembly of self-seekers would be "a place where Jesus Christ and Judas would be equals. But the betting odds would favor Judas."

We all know that many times in the past the national interest was betrayed by Congress. Are we going to see a repeat of these betrayals in the event that the task of amending the Constitution is given to Congress?

A constitutional convention would be less partisan and more independent-minded than a constituent assembly. Its delegates would be elected by the people on the strength of their qualifications and not their celebrity or political or dynastic ties. The election of delegates should see the emergence of new leaders with a new vision and fresh perspectives.

Legislators who oppose the constitutional convention proposal say that it would need the allocation of new money "which we don't have." Estimates of the cost of holding a constitutional convention range from P2.5 billion to P8 billion. If our legislators can find sources of funds for their pork barrel, surely they can find a way to fund a convention. But they should not focus on the cost of holding a constitutional convention. They should not consider the outlay a huge cost but money well spent, an investment for a more progressive and stable future.

It is well that the current political crisis has brought to the fore the need to amend the Constitution. It is a task that has been postponed many times. It's time we gave serious thought to the idea of revising the Charter to make it more responsive to the economic, social and political ills plaguing the nation. But let the task of amending it be done by a constitutional convention, not by a discredited body like Congress.



Burying a Guinness record holder

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WHAT'S wrong with burying a Guinness Book of Records holder in a heroes' cemetery?" the editor joked at a newsroom session on a trial balloon that fizzled.

That blimp hinted that the President was open to burial of Ferdinand Marcos at Libingan ng mga Bayani. Ms Arroyo quickly denied the yarn saying, "All I want is to heal the wounds of Edsa I, II and III."

But tell-tale reactions surfaced quickly. That's a wrongfully withheld honor, claimed Imelda and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Former President Joseph Estrada said Marcos was a "hero" and he deserves to be interred in Libingan.

Estrada's standards were always less than heroic. Thus, he never saw the point that INQUIRER columnist Isagani Cruz made in "That queasy feeling": Libingan is not another memorial park. "None but heroes lie" there.

This value is reflected in shrines abroad, from Gettysburg and Arlington Cemeteries in the United States to Singapore's Krangji memorial. Commonwealth countries have 200 such memorials. Their theme resonates in the Kohima Battle memorial plaque: "When You Go Home, Tell Them And Say, / For Their Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today."

"Erap backtracked when people angrily protested his plan to inter Marcos in Libingan, even before he assumed the presidency," Isagani Cruz recalled in his January 1999 column.

Estrada stomped on a value shared by peoples everywhere: that heroes' resting places are hallowed grounds. Dictatorship and kleptocracy, however, fracture that value. Thus, Marcos' track record blocks a Libingan burial.

Despite denials, the Marcoses cast about for a state funeral. It would honor their dead—and rehabilitate the living still shackled to a sordid past. Hence, they've refrigerated the strongman's corpse, for over 18 years now—just in case.

Libingan's caretaker today is a President fighting to survive. Will the undertaker swap a horse-drawn caisson for political support? That would stomp on deeply held values. Look at the track record.

Fact: On June 5, 1997, the Supreme Court confirmed that "no estate taxes were filed by the Marcos spouses for 1982 to 1986." Neither did they submit income tax returns from 1982 to 1985. Marcos' tax deficiency totaled P23,293,607,638—not including Ferdinand Jr.'s P18.5-million debt. Reconsideration appeals were "denied with finality" on Jan. 13, 1997.

Fact: In 1986, The New York Times published a series, written by Seymour Hersh, revealing that US National Archives and US Army records discredited Marcos' claims to heroism in World War II, debunking those war medals.

Follow-up articles by Jeff Gerth and Joel Brinkley revealed that the US Army concluded that services given by Marcos and 23 others to the 1st Cavalry Division were "of limited military value."

"At no time did the Army recognize that any unit, designating itself as Maharlika, ever existed as a guerrilla force in the years of Japanese occupation," the Times said. "The immensity of Mr. Marcos' claim that Maharlika served the entire Luzon was absurd," the reviewing officer, Capt. Elbert Curtis, wrote. Marcos' claims were dismissed with finality in 1948.

Fact: Under the "New Society," the Philippines was "transformed from a country with a remarkable constitutional tradition to a system where star-chamber methods were used, on so wide a scale as to literally torture evidence into existence," Amnesty International reported.

Fact: "Under Marcos, military murder was the apex of a pyramid of terror—3,257 killed, 35,000 tortured and 70,000 incarcerated," Prof. Alfred McCoy told an Ateneo-Wisconsin University conference. Instead of an invisible machine like Argentina's, the Marcos regime intimidated by random displays of its torture victims—becoming thereby a theater of state terror. "Beneath the surface of a restored democracy, impunity, culture and politics are recasting cronies into statesmen, torturers into legislators and killers into generals...The trauma of Marcos' terror remains deeply embedded in society's collective memory and institutional fabric."

Fact: For over a decade, the Guinness Book of Records featured the Marcoses in its section on "Crime." One edition brackets the salting away of $860.8 million between the theft of the Mona Lisa painting in 1911 and the robbery of Germany's Reichbank in 1945. Later, the crime ranked with entries for deposed dictators like Africa's Mobutu Seseke.

Real heroes, like Lorenzo Tañada, Joaquin Roces, Jose Diokno and Benigno Aquino, among others, deserve a Libingan grave. But neither they nor their families demanded that honor. They understood that integrity and nobility of spirit—not honor guards—consecrate a burial ground in truth. Horse-drawn hearses cannot redress poverty of the spirit. *"El sitio nada importa,"* Jose Rizal writes in "Ultimo Adios."

In an open letter to then President Estrada, Victoria Mansueto (an aunt now dead) wrote:

"When World War II started, my younger brother was a fighter pilot. Lt. Salvador Manlunas and others fought in obsolete P-26 planes against modern Japanese Zeroes. He was killed in action.

"Bading never had a Swiss bank account. Nor did he own vast lands. All he has is a quiet tree-lined street, named after him, in Villamor Air Base and a Libingan grave. Now, you'd bury next to him, as a hero, someone whom the Guinness Book of Records credits for massive theft."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Tough

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

BETWEEN Bear Stearns and Standard and Poor's, S&P offers the more accurate view: "Even if the President (GMA) survives in office, the possibility of an executive weakened by lower public support and an obstructive legislature will heighten political instability and further impede the administration's reform efforts."

In fact, the one person who got that right was GMA herself. She said in 2002: "Since I'm among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, my political efforts can only result in never-ending divisiveness." What applies to running applies to overstaying.

The question remains: How do you run a country that doesn't like you? The answer is: You don't. As Marcos found out when the soldiers turned against him and a horde began rattling the gates of Malacañang determined to tear him to shreds.

What impedes reforms? Governance has already ground to a halt. In survival mode, GMA has turned the entire state apparatus into a propaganda machine with the single purpose of making her look good. As in the last days of Marcos, no work is being done in offices other than to conduct loyalty checks.

Bear Stearns' premises are all wrong. "GMA is tougher politically than the opposition expected...She is much more popular in the provinces and this support may be rising as a result of a backlash against what is perceived as the arrogance of 'Imperial Manila' in the provinces. The more Manila-based newspapers criticize her and Manila-based politicians call for her resignation, the better the President's support in the provinces."

The notion that GMA is more popular in the provinces than in the capital region is silly. To believe that is to buy the results of the elections where GMA won by a statistical improbability in Cebu. One is tempted to say that the more credible idea is that GMA is less loathed in the provinces than in Metro Manila, the capital region being the most articulate and vocal among the regions. But even that isn't true as well, as shown by the surveys. GMA got a slight improvement in her ratings in a survey in Metro Manila a few weeks ago, which was a source of elation in Malacañang notwithstanding that it merely meant a slightly smaller negative rating, and got battered in subsequent nationwide surveys, which showed her approval ratings plunging into an abyss. The findings were bolstered by a Time-CNN survey that came out at about the same time. Eight out of 10 Filipinos wanted her out.

Bear Stearns would have been right if it had been talking about Erap. Geographically, Erap was more popular in the provinces than in Metro Manila, and socially he was more popular among the *masa* than the elite. And he got thrown out.

The provinces have been complaining about "Imperial Manila" for as long as I can remember (and that is a long time)—Mindanao more than the Visayas, which now even has a group calling for a Mindanao Republic. Mindanao is not GMA territory: She had to cheat big there, as borne out by the "Hello, Garci" tapes, to battle FPJ to a draw. If the provinces resent "Imperial Manila," why would they embrace GMA? No one has more centralized and concentrated power since Marcos than she, and for the same reason, which is to rule indefinitely. Her lust for power is well known. That has been the source of her unpopularity from the start. To postulate that the more she is criticized by the Manila press the more she is embraced by the provinces is plain asinine, the product of the false premises above.

What gives the illusion she is supported by the provinces is that many local officials, represented by various leagues, have been flocking to her side. That is not a sign of the local officials' love for her, that is a sign of the local officials' love for themselves. That was true as well of Marcos and Erap during their last days: the local officials flocked to their side. The reason is simple, and is captured by the idiom, "making hay while the sun shines." Beleaguered presidents make better milking cows. They would give the moon if they could. The same local officials flock just as easily to their successor afterward. Luis Villafuerte clapped lustily at the Luneta in December 2001 to express his undying support for Erap. He clapped lustily as well at the Sona the other week to express his undying support for GMA.

Which brings us finally to GMA being tougher than the opposition expected. That too simply buys the notion, purveyed by Malacañang toadies, that the move to unseat GMA is a plot by the opposition, when the opposition has been caught flatfooted on several occasions, not least by the release of the "Hello, Garci" tapes. The last has turned the issue against GMA from betrayal of public trust to legitimacy. Unlike Erap, GMA does not just stand accused of messing up the country, she stands accused of not being the president at all. And she has been convicted by her own confession of saying hello to Garci. Her enemy isn't the opposition, it is the entire population.

In fact, how long she will survive—it is only a question of when, not whether—does not depend on what she does but what her opponents, which is pretty much the country, do. The only thing that has kept her in Malacañang is the reluctance of the populace to move to create another GMA (her weakness is her strength, as I said yesterday) and the failure, thus far, of her opponents to forge a common agenda. That is just a question of time.

Susan Roces said it best when asked what she thought of the view that the President was *matapang* to admit saying hello to Garci and apologizing for it. *"Hindi yon tapang, yon ay tapang ng apog."*

There is a difference in being tough and having a tough hide.

Rosales: Let's not forget Marcos' crimes

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE REVELATION by a certain Michael Angelo Zuce that he was at a meeting at the La Vista home of President Macapagal-Arroyo right after the 2004 elections raises more questions than it answers. Zuce, who was presented to the media yesterday by the opposition, alleged that the meeting was attended by Comelec regional directors from around the country with Ms Arroyo present, and that they were given P30,000 each by Mayor Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged *jueteng* lord Bong Pineda, presumably to cheat for Ms Arroyo (down from the P2 million each in earlier news accounts).

But if that meeting was so important and crucial to GMA's victory, why was her key political officer, Gabriel Claudio, as well as key Lakas officials not around? Why just a small functionary in the office of Lakas political officer Joey Rufino? In fact, in the last elections Rufino was no longer a major player as he was already battling cancer then (he is in critical condition right now).

* * *

Palace sources say Zuce had disappeared over the past few months, and Undersecretary Ray Roquero ordered him to explain his prolonged absence. Zuce never showed up and just sent his letter of resignation. Did the opposition get to him to weave his tale?

Some Palace officials say Zuce is a heavy gambler who lost his house and that when he disappeared, he had a lot of unpaid debts. Apparently Zuce is the latest in a long string of unsavory characters recruited by the opposition to discredit the GMA administration.

The 13 Comelec regional directors have denied the charges of jueteng witness Sandra Cam that they had received money from Pineda. Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos was quoted as saying that the directors are "very angry and outraged" over the accusations and are filing a libel case against Cam and Zuce. One of those maligned, Region IV Director Juanito Icaro, wrote a letter to various newspapers "categorically and vehemently denying the unfounded and hearsay allegation" that the President personally witnessed the distribution of P2 million each to all Comelec regional directors. Icaro pointed out that if he received the amount as alleged, why did GMA lose in the 10 provinces of his region by as much as a million votes? He also stressed that "not a single incident of election fraud or irregularity was ever reported" in Region IV, all of which negates "these unfounded and unsubstantiated allegations."

* * *

Icaro also noted that the Comelec officials cannot escape talking to candidates from all parties inasmuch as they come to the Comelec offices or "we often see them in the corridors, the malls and restaurants" and address their various concerns to these election officials. These concerns, stressed Icaro, range from the candidates' chances in the elections, clarifying certain procedures or issues, recommending appointments to the commission and requests for reassignment/replacement of provincial election supervisors and/or election officers if they feel the latter are not sympathetic to them. In reality, stressed Icaro, it is possible that these officials "are just trying to maintain their independence" as well as that of the commission.

* * *

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales' observation about how people seem to have forgotten the human rights abuses and corruption of the Marcos dictatorship couldn't have come at a better time. The Manila prelate stressed in a recent talk with reporters that "two generations ago there was a man who ruled us and declared martial law. He ran away with so much money that runs into trillions of pesos." And yet, Rosales queried, why is it that no one talks about the crimes of Marcos any longer and people seem to have forgotten these "bigger crimes."

In fact, it might be said that an indication of this propaganda distortion is that, according to a survey, people are beginning to think GMA's administration is worse than Marcos'. Rosales said so much focus has been made on what President Arroyo has done, as though she were "the only President who's linked to corruption." Stressing that he is "not in favor of anyone," but that he is interested in "the whole truth," he warned that just as the Church intervened and withdrew support from the Marcos regime when it became evident that it had been frozen into "near helplessness," it might be forced to do the same again if the situation warrants in GMA's time. This is fair warning that GMA has to mobilize her forces more decisively, especially her communication group.

* * *

One might add that the corruption of the Erap administration has been played down so much, making that unlamented regime look so angelic as the opposition throws the entire kitchen sink at GMA, to quote a columnist from another paper. Yet the inescapable fact is that the opposition personalities seeking to seal GMA's political doom in the impeachment in the House figured prominently in the Marcos and Estrada era. For instance, there's Imee Marcos pontificating about cheating in the elections of 2004, clearly lapsing into amnesia about the snap election of 1986, when the irregularities committed by her father's henchmen against opposition candidate Cory Aquino were simply "asterisked" during the canvassing of votes at the Batasan.

Then there's San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, Imelda's bagman and Erap's executive secretary, perorating about the charges in the amended complaint. There's Makati Mayor Jojo Binay, who provided the physical muscle for Erap, and Rep. Francis Escudero, son of Marcos' Agriculture Secretary Sonny Escudero. There are, of course, the Estrada mother and son, Senators Loi and Jinggoy, and Guia Gomez's son, Mayor JV Ejercito, all of whom are pining for the restoration of Erap.

Moral disgust

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"MORAL disgust" is how many describe their sentiments these days, a conviction that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo cheated her way to the presidency as indicated in the "Hello, Garci" tapes, and dismay, disappointment and even anger that she seems to be getting away with it.

Even as pressure builds to shame GMA into voluntarily resigning, she has shown every sign of staying on, from turning the nation's attention away from the "tale of the tapes" to Charter change, from proclaiming her willingness to have her day in court through an impeachment even as her allies in Congress take every step to derail the impeachment motion.

Perhaps the President's confidence has to do with the lack of focus of all the groups and movements calling for her ouster. A motley collection of the "usual suspects"—Estrada supporters, failed candidates, leftist groups, and liberal clergy—joined by deserters from among her support group, including former Cabinet members and NGO sympathizers, the anti-GMA movement has found it difficult not just to mount united protests but even to propose a credible post-GMA scenario. As a friend put it: "We have no alternatives, no Plan B, no taste for the rabble-rousing opposition, no inclination to heroics, ahd no antidote to exhaustion."

What seems clear at this point is that doing more of the same, more of the tried and true forms of protest dating back to pre-martial law days, even, will no longer work. Some new, creative form of distilling the moral disgust in the air and giving expression to it has to be devised. As another friend put it: this new expression of public indignation "must take a different form from marching in the street or signing a petition or issuing a statement because people recoil from doing anything political when they feel particularly morally affronted."

* * *

WHATEVER "new" trigger or precipitating event emerges, it doesn't look like it will be coming from the ongoing hearings on *jueteng* or the "Gloriagate" tapes. This despite the surfacing of a new witness who puts the President personally present during the distribution to Comelec officials of bribes solicited from jueteng lords. Talk about joining the issues!

I don't usually agree with the President's political adviser Gabby Claudio, but I think what he says about Michael Angelo Zuce, a relatively minor Malacañang functionary, bears considering. How could Zuce, who worked in the office of Joey Rufino, a liaison officer for political affairs, have enjoyed such trust that he would be allowed to join the very few people at the President's personal residence in La Vista? Especially since GMA not only met with Comelec officials, fishy in itself, but also stood by while they received millions of pesos in bribes?

It seems particularly brazen of the President, and careless, too, which she certainly is not. Why would she need to be present at such an occasion, after all? And why hold the payoff in her family home, which would tie her to the bribery even if she weren't present?

Though the Senate is giving Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz one last shot at presenting witnesses on the jueteng racket, my feeling is that the public has already turned off on the hearings by now. From what I gather, the public seems to believe there's nothing really new or spectacularly scandalous about the revelations so far, with administration supporters successfully boring holes through the more sensational allegations.

* * *

TALK about amending the Constitution for now centers on the proposed shifts in form of government: from presidential bicameral to parliamentary unicameral; and the adoption of a federal system, that is, dissipating the power of the executive at the national center by granting more decision-making power and control over local resources to state or regional governments.

But there's nothing to prevent the opening of other provisions or sections of the Charter to changes or amendments, especially if Congress simply meets as a constituent assembly. This is because the public would no longer have a chance to decide what areas they want to be amended by voting for delegates to sit in a çonstitutional convention, granted that all candidates would present a menu of Charter changes they would undertake.

It's possible that some new features introduced in the 1987 Constitution, such as the "people power" provisions on recall and oversight, or the more stringent requirements for the declaration of martial law, could be overturned. And certainly, we can expect debate on such controversial items as the so-called "right to life" provision granting state protection to the "unborn" or even the provision granting women and men "equality before the law."

* * *

ON THE LATTER, we need to keep a close watch on the drafting of the Iraqi constitution, which is expected to wrap up by Aug. 15. Iraqi women's groups are organizing themselves to counter attempts by religious conservatives to impose Islamic laws on the country's once-secular legal system. Some 200 women have already marched on Baghdad's streets precisely to prevent this from happening.

Iraqi women are particularly alarmed by proposals to adopt Sharia law as the civil code applied to Muslim families. Under Sharia law, for instance, a woman who files charges of rape must be able to produce a male witness in her favor, or else face the possibility of being convicted of adultery herself.

Though religious parties have tried to placate the women's fears, the women are not reassured any by the statement of one prominent cleric that while Islam respects the right of women, women must content themselves with "limited equality" under Islamic rules.

Romance in the high seas

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(The following article should open up an area of research that Filipinos in Spain interested in the subject or those on the lookout for Philippine artifacts and antiques may find informative. Since we're not given to keeping journals, diaries and letters, I overlooked the fact that others might have or that commerce continued after the Galleon Trade ended.)

ALONG THE WHARFS in Santander were houses constructed by shipping magnates that composed a group that had enriched themselves in overseas commerce. These were mansions, tall and massive, with balconies and bay windows on each floor. On the ground floors, facing the wharf, were the warehouses and offices of their enterprise. At the back of these houses was a plaza that bore the name of the richest of those rich men—Plaza Pombo—where they parked their carriages.

These merchants possessed some curious and rare collections—not of paintings, sculptures or books, but items of a distinct type, amassed without any order or inventory. These were remembrances of the journeys of their frigates, presents that the captains had brought for their wives or their children and had accumulated in their cabinets and salons.

On top of a piano de cola or mahogany console covered by manton de Manila were: nuggets of unrefined gold used as paperweights; Turkish sabers and Malay arrows; idols from Mindanao and Bornean tribes; parasols used by Mandarins, snuffboxes of shell and lacquer; tea pots of black enamel decorated with gold dragons; stuffed crocodiles, turtles and parrots; spurs made from the fish "Espada"; bolts of silk; shells of various sizes whose nacre reflected the light of the Indies; ivory miniatures carved and filigreed by artists with infinite patience.

The loquacious parrot wasn't lacking in his cage of thick brass bars plated in gold. The whole tropics, the entire jungle and the remote archipelagos were there represented by its most characteristic examples. Seeing these artifacts gave one the idea of what the Spanish realm had been when Cuba and the Philippines were still a part of it.

Don Ignacio Fernandez de Castro owned ships of 250 to 400 tons of displacement that made the run between Cadiz and the Philippines (covering the 1820s to the 1850's). They bore names such as "La Hispano-Filipina," "La Paz," "La Guadalupe," "La Virgen del Carmen," "La Virgen de los Angeles"—names of familiar devotions. They would make the romantic and long trips, reaching the Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope, docking at the ports of Goa, Macao, Canton but their goal was almost always the remote and beloved Manila.

Their cargo was composed of pleasant materials, clean and fragrant: cacao, coffee, cotton, bolts of silk, cinnamon and vanilla. Nothing of carbon, petrol, grease and steel. The ships of Don Ignacio also brought mail and passengers. Aristocratic ladies related to high colonial officials trembled at the prospect of the 135 to 140 days that the voyage entailed from Santander to Manila or from Manila to Cadiz. It wasn't only the length but also the hardships that the trip inflicted on the passengers. Water was rationed, and if the ship entered a windless zone, a water shortage followed. It wasn't unusual that food would also be scarce and then a sailboat would be launched to beg from the rare ships that they might meet en route. In "Diarios de Navegacion del Capitan San Juan" are various references to these anguished demands:

"At 2:30 a brigantine was seen leeward and after six hours we were alongside it and they asked us for the longitude because their chronometer had stopped for eight days. We asked them for some supplies and salt. They answered that they couldn't provide any necessities but could give us salt."

Many of these ships had no doctors or medicine kits or first-aid stations; their captains had to serve as physicians in the event of emergencies. The cures were primitive as "Diario de Navegacion" illustrates: "At 1 o'clock, the ropes holding the taut foresail broke and the frame fell on the head of the cabin boy Paulino Ignacio, causing two big wounds. The profuse bleeding was stopped with sugar and brandy. After five hours, we were informed that the bleeding resumed and we tried to remedy it immediately but no matter how many things we tried we couldn't stop the bleeding. Finally at 8, it stopped after we applied quicklime with the consent of the patient." (It doesn't say whether the cure was worse than the injury and the patient died anyway.)

"There were many deaths and the corpses were thrown overboard even as sharks escorted the sailboat during a good part of the crossing. Mortality rates were high especially when the trip involved government exiles to the Philippines or prisoners returning from prison there. There were rarely ocean crossings without a death.

"At 10:00 the political detainee, a soldier by the name of Narciso la Barca, boarded in Manila with dysentery that was complicated by chicken pox. He was unable to make a last will and testament since he suddenly took a turn for the worse and was unable to speak. An inventory was made of his belongings."

(From Vertice, "Las Fragatas de Filipinas," Jose del Rio Sainz 1942.)

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Father and son

YOUNG BLOOD

Volts Castillo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I SNEAKED out of my class recently to have a bite at Ma Mon Luk. I had been hankering for some of their noodles and *siopao*, so I thought it would be a good idea to visit their old joint on Quezon Avenue in Quezon City.

I left school at exactly 11 a.m. and got there 15 minutes later. I proceeded to order my usual fare: beef mami and special siopao. Then two things happened. First, I began to eat. Then I was overcome by a wave of sadness. It was dumb, really, because I stopped eating and lost my appetite halfway through peeling their famous siopao. But then I had suddenly remembered my father.

There are people who peel their *siopao*, and there are people who don't. Papa used to do this for himself and for me when I was still a little kid.

"*Papa, bakit mo binabalatan yung siopao?*" I would ask.

And he would answer, "*Kasi, anak, madumi yung balat.*"

It's one of those little conversations that cement the bond between a father and his son—short, funny and unimportant. But when you lose your parent at a relatively young age, it's those cute Q&A's you remember most of all. Never the big stuff, the big fights, or your futile, teenage rebellion. Your mind (or my mind at least) harks back to the simple times when you were 12 and your parent was 38 and you had a lot of questions about the world.

Something as mundane as peeling a siopao shouldn't be a cause for unleashing a tidal wave of emotions. If you think about it, people shouldn't even be peeling it at all, because it's as clean as the bread and meat inside, and the fact that you're eating in a place like that...well, if you eat in a place like that and expect five-star hotel quality and cleanliness, then you're in the wrong place and you ought to leave immediately.

But a father doesn't take chances with what he feeds his son. So he starts removing the tough, outer layer of the bun to expose the softer, sweeter inner bread layer. He does this for two reasons: one, the outer layer could be dirty; and two, he doesn't want his young son to break one of his cute little milk teeth on the bun. He doesn't realize that it doesn't matter to his son if it's dirty or clean; he'll eat the food because his father does. To the child, they are just a couple of guys eating *siopao.* He doesn't realize that he's imprinting the memory of his father peeling his siopao and that he's having fun.

In my own experience, it was just me and my dad, eating in this smelly joint. Hey, after this he's going to buy me a pair of shoes.

All relationships between father and son, regardless of race or ethnicity, have some sort of conflict roiling underneath. The father may resent the son from time to time, and vice-versa. I don't know any underlying anthropological/behavioral theory to explain this, but I've seen it everywhere: on TV, in other families I know, even in the books I read and the movies I watch. It's real.

Papa and I had exactly the same relationship as those father-son characters you see on TV: good today, bad tomorrow. The reasons that trigger the changes are endless, bur most times it's got something to do with me being lazy, or hooking up with the wrong type of girl, or doing poorly in school.

You might say, "Dude, that's perfectly natural. All dads are like that."

I agree. We're not different from the rest of the world, after all.

But during times like these—with me hitting 29 in a couple of months, married for some months, confused as to whether I'm supposed to stay or quit government service and resume the law studies I've postponed on for so long—I miss my father's strength and his strong will. People can only kid themselves for so long about their own maturity and wisdom, but in the end, they will always ask themselves, "What would my father do?" No matter how old you are, sooner or later, you'll come running back to your dear, old dad to seek advice, whether you have a turbulent relationship or not.

Those whose fathers are still alive know and appreciate this. Those whose fathers are no longer of this world are left with just memories and dreams. No matter how stupid you think your father is, my friend, he always knows more about life and how to live than you. That's an indisputable fact.

In the Chinese restaurant, I stopped eating and just started staring into the distance because I suddenly realized that I was now without a father, and had no one to turn to "when bad things start happening." Like Marcel Proust and his madeleine-eating episode that triggered his multi-volume work, I have written several thousand words on this subject before, but it was only lately that I realized how many things Papa taught me without him actually giving me a set of directions to follow. I suddenly remembered all the things I do on auto-pilot, all the problems I've solved thoughtfully or thoughtlessly by copying Papa's no-nonsense habit (use your brain, not your mouth, and don't whine, just *do* it, silently, wordlessly, because people don't care *how* you solve it, they want to know *when* you've solved it). Like peeling siopao in one, swift, stripping action. It's there, it's automatic, and it's a habit I picked up from my old man.

You can say: "Hey, you always have friends and your mom to ask for help or advice."

But seriously, how many men whom you know "open up" (I hate those two words) to their friends when they're down? I am an old-school guy, and I think men shouldn't be opening up to anything, and those that do so are weak. As men, it's simply not our lot in life to ask for advice from anyone else other than our fathers. You're the man, everything in your family depends on your wisdom. If you go around "opening up" to your friends, hoping to win sympathy and help, then you might as well put on a dress and swish around the room for us because you're a bit soft.

Let me close this rambling article by saying that you should be thankful if your parents are still alive. There is no shame in running back to your father for help. As they used to say, you're the fruit of his loins, so how can he **not** help you?

A for those among us who no longer have the benefit of feeling the paternal touch, all we have left are shadows and dust.

Volts Castillo, 29, works with the Social Security System.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

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Water pollution far more dangerous than we realize

WATER pollution is an overlooked yet prevalent issue in Metro Manila today. As mentioned in Blanche Rivera's article, "Metro Manila's 'largest septic tank' near death" (PDI, 6/24/05), Laguna de Bay, the country's biggest lake is deteriorating due to waste from households.

Aside from the fact that the rapid urbanization caused some people to illegally set up their houses near—or, worse, on top of—rivers, the settlers themselves have no idea about proper management of waste—one of the major causes of water pollution. In addition, according to Water Tech Online, there are concerns that the rotting heaps of garbage deposited in Payatas, the garbage dump in the Manila suburb of Quezon City, are polluting the reservoir behind La Mesa dam, the source of drinking water for the people in Metro Manila.

However, we tend to disregard the situation, not to mention its effects—such as, groundwater contamination, breeding ground for roaches and rodents—and the health impacts which are caused by harmful bacteria that can proliferate both in our homes and in our communities. The international environmental group Greenpeace has stated that "La Mesa reservoir now contains toxic substances due to the runoff of flood waters at the Payatas dump site caused by the recent heavy monsoon rains." In addition to this, The Philippine Urban Sewerage and Sanitation has noted that out of 418 rivers in the country, 37 are seriously polluted and 11 are considered "biologically dead."

As stated in the "Overview of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act," citing reports from the National Solid Waste Management Commission, "only 73 percent of the 5,250 metric tons of waste generated daily are collected by dump trucks hired by our respective local government units. The remaining 27 percent or about 1,417.5 metric tons of our daily waste end up in canals, vacant spaces, street corners, market places, rivers and other places."

On the other hand, we have rules for waste management. As mentioned in the "Overview," RA 9003 strengthened the local government units' role in the collection of both non-biodegradable and special wastes, at the same time as the barangay units were to segregate and collect biodegradable and reusable wastes.

As we can see, water pollution is of our own making and its consequences could be much worse in the future. So what is our role here? To formulate new rules? We actually have them already; we just lack the initiative to implement them.

Ponder on this: if each and every one of us were just a tad more responsible and effective, then pollution would actually be history. Would it not be better if the words and phrases "pollution," "diseases caused by garbage-bred bacteria," and "biologically dead rivers"—rather than our natural resources and who knows what else—become extinct?

—PAMELA MAYO SOLILAPSI,
p_amela_s@yahoo.com

Not 'unauthorized' photos

WE write as counsel for Jo-Ann Quimson Maglipon who was the subject of the July 23 INQUIRER news report titled "Claudine seeks restraining order against mag editor."

Inasmuch as we have not received a copy of the complaint filed by Claudine Barretto, it is premature for us to make a comment on the suit.

However, if only to address the accusation of Barretto that Maglipon published "unauthorized" photos, we refer to the July 2005 issue of Hi! magazine, of which Maglipon is the executive editor, and where the pictures of the dedication ceremony of Barretto's daughter appeared.

The photos show Barretto in either voluntary poses for the camera or during the actual ceremony itself. None of the pictures are scandalous or offensive and, more importantly, their treatment, through the captions and accompanying article, was not just fair but in fact positive.

Those pictures were given to Hi! magazine by Ronald Carballo, a *ninong* at Sabina Barretto's dedication. They were not, as Barretto's lawyer has indicated on television, stolen.

Maglipon has been a professional journalist for at least 30 years. In that entire period, she has never used her writing except in response to the call of her profession. Barretto, for her part, has voluntarily solicited publicity for herself as an actress and product endorser, and is not in a position to complain when she, in fact, gets that publicity.

Aside from being the editor in chief of Yes! and executive editor for Hi!, Maglipon is also engaged in board advisory work for Newsbreak, the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform, and human rights organizations with which she has had a working relationship for at least two decades. Clearly, she has neither the time nor the inclination to taint her name by plotting a personal attack on anyone, including Barretto.

Thank you for hearing our side.

—SANDRA MARIE OLASO-CORONEL,
Yorac Arroyo Chua Caedo & Coronel,
Unit 3103-A West Tower, Philippine Stock
Exchange Centre, Exchange Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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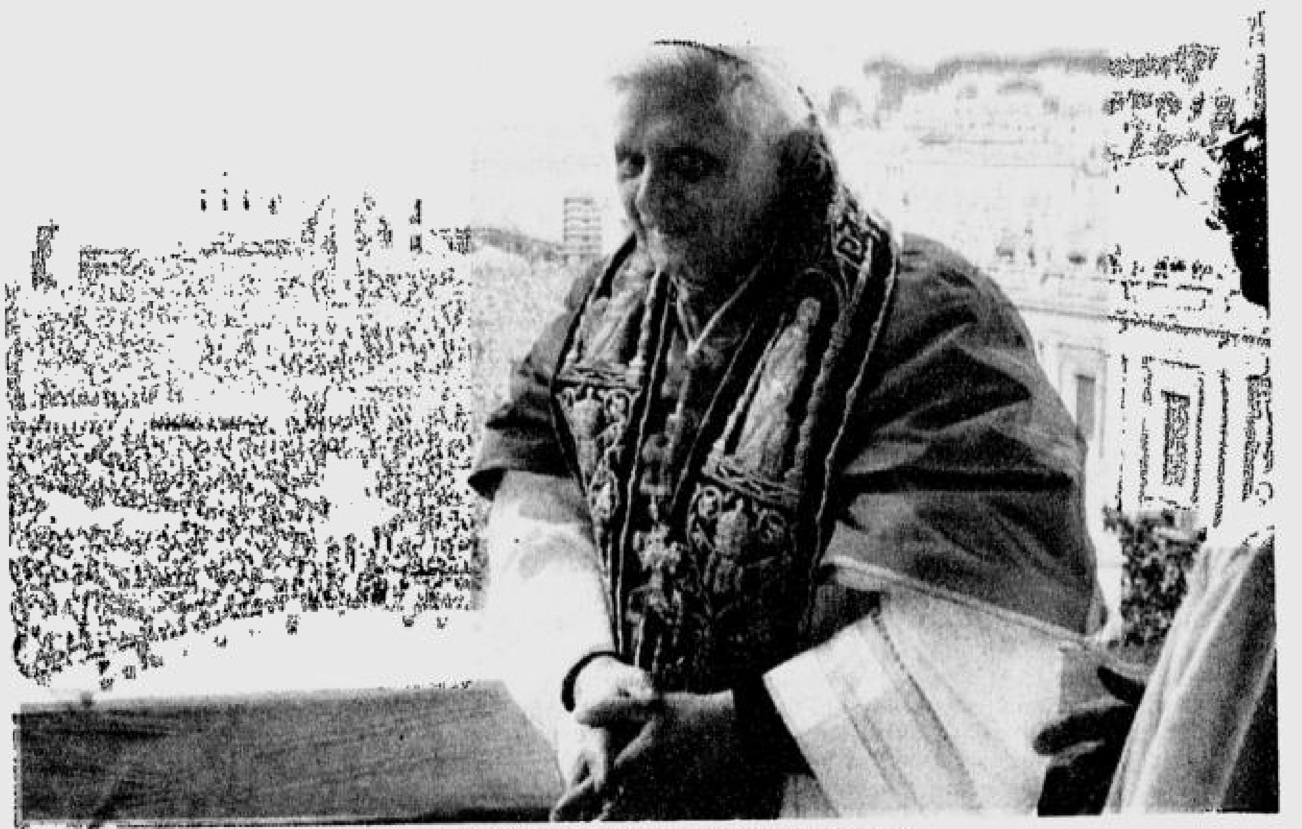

Pope Benedict XVI leaves the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica after blessing the crowd.

Compulsory Nazi membership

IN HIS column titled "The truth isn't out there" (PDI, 7/20/2005), Conrado de Quiros with his usual acerbic eloquence pounced on the credentials of Joseph Ratzinger, a.k.a. Benedict XVI, former Nazi Youth, to give the clergy advice on not interfering in politics.

Surely, as a responsible journalist, De Quiros must have read the history explaining the compulsory Nazi membership of all German youth (Ratzinger was then 14 years old) under Hitler. Nowadays, even the most fanatical anti-Papist no longer uses this outdated argument to smear Pope Benedict XVI. It also comes as a surprise that De Quiros used a cheap shot typical of sophomoric debaters to contrast the greatness of the late Pope ("who stood out heads and shoulders above the pack") with the assumed inadequacies of the present Pope.

—ANTONIO L. LEDESMA,
8 Tangub St., Alabang Hills,
Muntinlupa City

Why little progress in the Philippines

RAMON Tulfo's recent column on tax evasion, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Iggy Arroyo is on target but nothing will happen to Arroyo who has money and influence, and that's what counts in the Philippines.

How come Arroyo has an account under a pseudo name, i.e., Jose Pidal? What sort of anti-money laundering laws, if any, do you have in this country? In my country, the United Kingdom, members of Parliament (MPs) have vision, honor, decorum and integrity; they don't have brass necks, and any MP whose reputation is clouded by a scandal resigns.

Our MPs are also dedicated to serving their constituents. But in the Philippines, it seems to me that the most important goal for many in government service is lining their own pockets. Resignations are few and far between. That's why there is little progress in this country.

—PETER BRANCH,
Asian Mansion I,
109 Dela Rosa St.,
Legaspi Village,
Makati City

Prophets of doom

THE INQUIRER editorial cartoon published July 3, 2005 says it all. A few dysfunctional personalities are engaged in a political tug-of-war, neglecting altogether the plight of the poor. Some of them sowed intrigues, thus creating the mess we're now in.

The current situation is not just a crisis of the presidency. It's a crisis of the Filipino values of love of God, love of country and respect for authority. It's a crisis perpetuated by a few who are hungry for or obsessed with power. A few have disguised themselves as democrats and champions of the masses; in fact, they are prophets of doom, propagating discord.

This kind of "prophets" has been around for centuries, way back to the Old Testament era. In the book of Jeremiah, our Lord rebuked these prophets—"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture."

These "prophets" have a penchant to judge people, but they themselves do not have the moral ascendancy to do so. In the Book of Matthew, our Lord rebuked once again these pretenders—"In the same way, you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness!"

In this time of crisis, let us shun these prophets. Let us follow not the path of confrontation and conflict that they have shown. For their path is the path of disunity, chaos and destruction.

In this time of crisis, however, let us revive our core Filipino values of love of God, love of country and respect for authorities. Let us follow the path of peace, unity and harmony. Let us follow the examples of Gawad Kalinga's *bayanihan* model and Pondo ng Pinoy's compassion model.

These two outstanding programs shine brightly amid our country's gloomy political environment. As the two programs help the poor, they put into practice our Filipino values of love, respect, *bayanihan* and unity. The programs inspire everyone to contribute and participate. Under the programs, patrons and beneficiaries practice unity as they involve everyone, regardless of political, religious and social affiliation.

By following the inspiring lead of Gawad Kalinga and Pondo ng Pinoy, we will see that there is much hope for our country. And we will not see any of the antics of the prophets of doom anymore!

—JOSE DONATO II,
pidrew05@gmail.com

INOBOX

Do you think the planned shift from a presidential to a parliamentary-federal form of government will solve the current crisis?

No. Its not d system but d politicians manning d system.
—Erwin Abes, 46, *Calapan city*

No, PGMA should not divert the attention of the people to the real issue of wiretapping controversy!
—Gloria R. Esguerra, 26, *Cabanatuan*

Yes, d senate will be dissolved, no more bicam, only unicam & laws can be passed faster saving time…
—roberto la Madrid, 41, *malabon*

No. The current crisis has been spawned by corruption and legitimacy issues.
—Felix C. Reis, 48, *Baao, Camarines Sur*

the charter has nothing to do with the hello garci and jueting payola(s).
—j. gaminde, 52, *baguio city*

n0, the real pr0b is n0t D system itslf but rather D people running D system!
—Diana Pacheco, 31, *Davao City*

Values, among other things, is what we need frm our leaders. Remove it n no amount n change of form of government can solve d crisis.
—Joel Estevez, 39, *Masbate City*

it myt solve d crisis provided dat all incumbent politicians fr d prez down 2 brgy level are barred frm running in d next elections
—dani j gujol, 49, *tagblrn*

Can d shift feed d hungry, educate d illiterate, or eliminate corruption? No, r problems live & await a concrete solution.
—Soren Ejercito, 18, *Quezon City*

it wl solve d prob but d transition shuld b step by step, let d pipol know especially d masa, what is parliamentary?
—Engr.William M. Turno, *Cagayan de Oro City*

Yes, it myt work, as long as walang "GARCIGATE TAPE"; ang magiging Ministry ng bansang Pilipinas.
—Dennis Vincent Salubo, 20, *Malaybalay City*

No, but announcing it is d best move 2win back d pple. The current crisis is a trial & being pessimistic abt new reforms wont help us now
—Juniper, 22, *QC*

"YES", To the extent of decentralization of power to regional governments: thereby development of growth to countryside
—Greg Saraos, *Intramuros, Manila*

d shift 2 prlmntry-federal form of govt wl solve current crisis if coupled wd change of attitudes of all Filipinos
—Christine Dalogdog, *Malaybalay*

Yes, as long as d politician shift their interest too, from SELF, to PEOPLE.
—Julie Luy, *zambo city*

NO. Dey r making d constitution & our form of govt SCAPEGOATS when in fact dey r d ones hu brought us into dis mess. NO. D only beneficiaries of this shift wuld be FVR and JDV with gloria projecting herself as a heroine.

Wala n bang ibang solusyon?

—tonichi Fernandez, 37, *manila*

merely changing shirts will not solve the problem of acute body odor
—trudis sapitan, 26, *mal,bulacan*

yes. We nid 2 fix d leaky pipes first b4 doin d house paint…
—Kittin corcuera, 26, *davao city*

No. It will just divide our nation further as governance is decentralized 2 da provinces. Its da ECONOMY STUPID!
—Rio P. Juntereal, *Infanta, Quezon*

No, wala sa form of govt yan, ang dapat baguhin yung attitude, tama na ang pagiging makasarili, mamuhay tayo sa ikagaganda ng lipunan
—Margie Garcia, 28, *Cauayan City*

Let governors form the NEW parliament. Get rid of old politicos. Lots of pork barrel savings! crisis solved.
—dindo martin, 54, *dgte city*

shift from presdl to fed govt. will not solve crisis, when leaders to be in the new govt were d cause of crisis.
—alex caoile, 49, *aringay, La Union*

Shifting will not solve the problem, pwde pa cguro palitan mga mukha nila kc nakakasuka na, bagong mukha bka meron pa
—loida, 31, *Koronadal City*

no, it will only b at a Large cost, n wid d govt not offering specific results, d public doesn't know why wil it happen, it wl only b 4d officials own good.
—Tal te, 20, *angeles*

NO it will EXCERBATE & prolong it!
—Elmo S. Escrupulo, 75, *Sara, Iloilo*

NO! kc d cha-cha gusto ng oposisyon kundi gusto nila sila naman mamuno ky gusto nila PATALSIKIN c PGMA sa lahat ng paraan.
—ding succor V, 24, *cotabato city*

i dont think so, i always heard dat promises but look wat hapened now n our country stil down. sila lang nakikinabang sa plano nla
—josephine esguerra, 26, *bacoor cavite*

no! wat we need is not a change of govt but a change in men. its not d form of govt dat causes our ills. its those who head it.
—Cesar Cabunag, 27, *Quezon City*

it will mostly solve d slow delivery of govt services 2d provinces but wil not address d gnawing question of validity of admin.
—joseph gannaban, 36, *q.c.*

no, ung klase lang naman ng government ang pinalitan, hindi ung mga naka upo. Dapat pati govt. officials palitan!
—Arvin Bernardino, *QC*

No. What we need is to change the misfits that compose the present system.
—Marco bernardo, *baguio city*

It is not the solution. It will just be another problem. The solution is to remove the cause of the current crisis—GMA!
—Agnes Paulino, 60, *Manila*

I don't think it can solve our current political crisis. The system is not the problem but PGMA.
—Rico L. Esguerra, 26, *Cabanatuan City*

ang mga FILIPINO ang dapat magbago hindi ang paraan ng pamamahala kc wla rin mangyayaring pagbabago!!
—jeffrey dumanjog, 19, *cotabato*

NO! kasi ang kailangan natin ay PAGKA2ISA ng mga namumuno at mga mamamayan. Pagtutulungan, at PAGSUPORTA sa pamahalaan.
—Felicitas Tomas, 28, *Quezon City*

no bec we Filipinos are difficult to govern regardless of form of govt. This is seen in the quality of politicians we have.
—alberto c benitez, 39, *quezon city*

d shift wud b 4 d best for those of us outside MLA so dat even if MLA elects moviestars & trapos as der leaders..
—louie m diazderivera, *lapulapu*

yes wil solve our problem in our political system now d parliamentary-federal is tested n tried
—Felix Mojica, 51, *Sipalay CT*

hindi solusyon ang pagbabago ng porma ng gobyerno kung mananatili pa ring mamumuno ang mga tiwali at sinungaling na tao
—bryan balolong, 23, *baguio*

change in d people in govt wil solve d crisis, not d change in d form of govt. Whatever form of govt we have but same people, its bound 2 fail
—jun, 37, *las piñas*

nope, not with d same corrupt, immoral and unprincipled leaders we have in our system. Oust GMA first, she's d culprit.
—gerry singson, *vigan city*

Nonsequitur. Change tho is just musical chairs if laws remain suggestions. Dey must b equally aplyd regardless of hu gets hurt. d shift in govt system 2 solve current crisis is a non sequitur. A diversion. A cake 4 d starving populace.
—enrique Villanueva, 44, *dagupan city*

It all boils down to values. Shifting to a new system is no use if our leaders would always act to benefit themselves.
—Reden Mateo, 23, *Quezon City*

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'Jueteng' makes return in Isabela

CABATUAN, Isabela—The illegal numbers game *jueteng* is back in Isabela's major towns and cities, with dry-run operations done on July 31, the INQUIRER learned.

Bet collectors have been seen soliciting bets from *jueteng* enthusiasts. "*Buhay na naman kami pagkatapos ng hirap* (We are alive again after hardships)," a collector said.

Senior Supt. Percival Barba, Isabela police provincial director, said he has ordered police chiefs in Isabela's towns and cities to immediately conduct raids.

He said he would relieve police chiefs who fail to stop *jueteng* in their areas.

"They will be relieved ... [because] the one-strike policy of the Philippine National Police still stands," he said.

On learning the resurgence of *jueteng*, Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Diocese of Ilagan said he would ask priests in the diocese to verify these reports.

Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Cagayan Valley police director, downplayed reports of full-blast *jueteng* operations in the region.

"There is a proliferation of EZ 2 game of the [government-run] lotto. Maybe these [guerrilla *jueteng* operators] are riding on [the game's popularity] to resume their illegal activities," he said.

The INQUIRER learned that twice daily raffles have been held in some towns in the province.

In Angadanan town, for example, the winning combinations were 30-18 and 3-4 in morning and afternoon raffles on Sunday.

The Philippine National Police has claimed that it has put a stop to *jueteng* nationwide following a scandal linking the President's husband, her son and brother-in-law to *jueteng* payoffs.

But several reports point to the continuation of the illegal numbers game which has become a source of *payola* for top police and government officials. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Cop held in drug bust

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—A policeman and his two companions were arrested in a drug buy-bust operation in Sta. Maria town last week. Senior Supt. Benjamin Michael Fokno, Bulacan police director, said PO3 Ricardo Ibera, 39, and his companions Louie Lapig, 38, and Leonardo Bautista, 30, were arrested after they sold 10 grams of shabu to an agent posing as a buyer. Fokno said Ibera is detailed at the regional police's intelligence and investigation unit in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Power firm pays taxes

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The Mirant Sual Corp., which operates a 1.2-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Sual town, settled its P196.5-million real property tax obligation to local governments in Pangasinan. Gov. Victor Agbayani said the amount, which represents the real property taxes on the power plant from the second quarter of 2002 to December 2005, would be divided among the provincial government, the town of Sual and the power plant's host village of Pangascasan. Agbayani said the money would finance the local governments' development projects and their school boards. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

New bishop hailed

NAGA CITY—Parishioners here hailed the appointment of Rev. Msgr. Jose Rojas Jr. as the newest Filipino bishop on July 25. Rojas is the first Filipino bishop appointed by Pope Benedict XVI after his election. He was also elected the Titular Bishop of Idassa and the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Caceres. The new bishop holds the second highest position in the archdiocese here being the Vicar General, next in rank after the archbishop. Rojas was born in Cebu City 49 years ago but settled here where he spent his elementary education at the Naga Parochial School and his secondary and college education at the minor and major seminaries of the Holy Rosary of the Archdiocese of Caceres.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bicolanos vs Gloria

LEGAZPI CITY—Over 5,000 government employees in Bicol joined the call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down. The Rise All Government Employees (Rage-Bicol), with more than 5,000 members, said during a press conference Thursday that it wants Ms Arroyo to resign. Engineer Vicente Osabal of the Construction Division of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Bicol and president of Rage, said they could not see genuine healing until Ms Arroyo is in power. He said Rage is supporting a plan to create a transitional council that would manage the government the moment Ms Arroyo steps down.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 prisoners escape

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Ten suspected New People's Army rebels posed as policemen here and snatched two prisoners being transported by jail guards to a hearing in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, on Thursday. Police reports said the rebels, who were in police camouflage uniform, flagged down the jeepney carrying prisoners Juanito Flores, a suspected NPA rebel, and Alberto Gallardo and jail guards Ramon Verde and Cristopher Cinio along the national highway in Barangay Curva here at about 9 a.m. Six other passengers were in the jeepney. The prisoners were handcuffed. Insp. Samuel Avila, acting chief of the Science City of Muñoz police, said the armed men introduced themselves as policemen and asked the passengers to alight as they were verifying information that illegal drugs were being kept in the vehicle.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Retired judge dies

RETIRED judge Lauro Sandoval died July 30 in Nueva Ecija. He is survived by his wife, Aurea; his daughters, Jennie, Zinnia, and Rufa Flor; son-in-law, Policarpio; and grandchildren Nathaniel Pol, Jean-Patrick Samuel, Zeta Gabrielle, and Liam Niall. The wake is at his residence, corner Amor and Osmeña Streets, Barangay Caimito, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. Interment details will be announced later.

SCENES like this are likely to be repeated on Aug. 8 when voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao cast their ballots to choose the region's governor and other officials. The elections, however, are under a cloud of doubt as the Commission on Elections' capability to conduct clean voting was put in question. PDI FILE PHOTO

Comelec says Namfrel spreading 'hogwash'

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections yesterday accused the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) of spreading hogwash, even as the quick count group doubted the Comelec's capability of holding credible, peaceful and honest elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Elections Commissioner Mehol Sadain said Namfrel has been put to question by the works statistical expert Robert Versola, whose critical analysis of Namfrel's 2004 tabulations, the election official pointed out, tended to charge the poll watchdog group with "trending."

"If you look at this (critical analysis), you will see the shortfall ... that Namfrel is covering up for its fault at the expense of the Comelec. It's probably their way to (spread) hogwash," said another Comelec official.

Meanwhile, Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said his group still maintained its hands off policy on the regional elections.

"I think it's already a big help to the government on our part to be neutral or non-participant in Philippine political affairs," Kabalu said, reacting to a report that the MILF was also asking the government to postpone the ARMM elections.

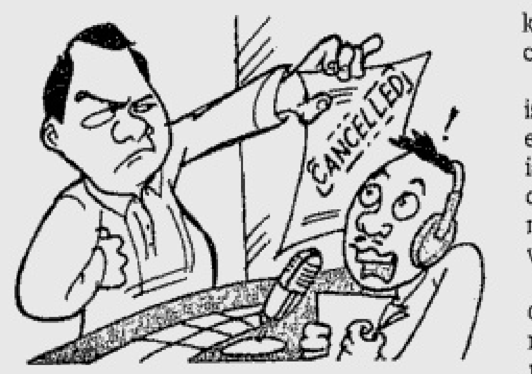
Sadain said only Congress has the power to reset the Aug. 8 elections, which is fixed by law, RA 9054 or the Expanded Autonomy Law for Muslim Mindanao.

The commissioner said the Comelec was left with no option but to continue with the preparations for elections until Congress comes up with a new law to defer or postpone the regional elections.

Namfrel, he said, owes it to the people as an accredited quick count group in 2004 to be providing them, through the Comelec, detailed per province reports on the results of the last national elections.

He said Comelec awaited for Namfrel's application for accreditation as watchdog, but neither has it attended hearings for accreditation, nor has it complied with the Comelec requirement of a per province breakdown of the May 2004 election results. *Nash Maulana and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mayor shuts down radio station for maligning him in programs



MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon—Valencia City Mayor Jose Galario Jr. ordered the closure of Radio Mindanao Network's station dxVR-FM after he cancelled the broadcast outfit's business permit on Monday.

Galario said he cancelled the station's business permit because Joash Dignos, dxVR acting station manager, allegedly violated a city ordinance.

Galario said Dignos has been using the station in "a disorderly and unlawful manner" by maligning him on air.

In a letter sent to engineer James Jadormio, RMN area manager, Galario said erring announcers of dxVR were not reprimanded and that they continue to "injure the public morale and welfare, peace and tranquility of the Valencia residents."

"Instead of (being) mediators, they have shown biases against the duly constituted authorities," Galario said in his letter to Jadormio.

Dignos said Galario got irked with his exposés, ranging from the issues of technical malversation of funds to his alleged coddling of suspected anti-drug vigilantes.

He said relatives of victims of summary executions in Valencia claimed that the suspects in the killings were seen in the city hall with Galario.

"What is worse here is that these summary executioners are civilians unlike in Cagayan de Oro where policemen are the ones involved," Dignos said.

Galario told the INQUIRER that he was not given a chance to rebut the issues hurled against him by Dignos.

Although he has a one-hour block time program at the station, Galario said he would rather answer the issues over the same programs where these were raised.

"I did not want to answer the issues using the block-time program, they should have given me the chance in their broadcaster's program. They practice irresponsible broadcasting," he said.

Aside from Dignos, Galario said another proof of irresponsibility among RMN broadcasters is the tirades against him by Zaldy Ocon.

Galario said he was not planning to reinstate the station's license.

But RMN got a 20-day reprieve after Judge Josefina Gentiles-Bacal of the Regional Trial Court Branch 10 here granted a temporary restraining order against Galario's order. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Justice grinds slowly for slain publisher

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Nearly three months since community publisher Philip Agustin was murdered, the case seeking to pin down an Aurora mayor for the killing is still in its preliminary investigation stage, the INQUIRER learned.

The police, despite a manhunt, have also failed to arrest two of the three suspected gunmen, Nilo "Boyet" Morete and Anuel Alday. They were last reported to be hiding in Barangay Umiray at the boundary of Aurora and Quezon, and in San Miguel, Bulacan, according to Agustin's friend, Councilor Valentino Lapuz of Dingalan, Aurora.

The police identified Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde as the suspected mastermind in Agustin's murder. Ylarde, however, denied having a hand in the publisher's slaying.

Agustin, 54, publisher of the Starline Times Recorder and who was murdered on May 10 this year, joined the list of more than 60 Filipino journalists killed since democracy was restored in 1986.

Lapuz said Ylarde had not appeared in at least three hearings in the Department of Justice that began on May 27.

A lawyer represented the mayor, Lapuz said.

The eighth hearing on the case will be held on Aug. 2.

Three prosecutors the DOJ assigned to the case also did not appear on the July 14 and 26 hearings, Agustin's daughter Rosebelle Cruz said.

Agustin was gunned down in Cruz's house in Dingalan on May 10, a few hours after he arrived carrying copies of his paper's special edition.

That issue published several stories that exposed alleged irregularities in Ylarde's handling of relief and rehabilitation funds for victims of landslides and flash floods. The mayor had denied the allegations in earlier interviews.

The case against Ylarde relied on testimonies of one of the suspects, Reynaldo Morete, whom the National Bureau of Investigation agents and the police arrested on May 14.

Morete's June 6 supplemental affidavit pointed to Ylarde as the alleged mastermind, Lapuz said.

The three suspects were municipal employees, working as bulldozer operators or aides of Ylarde, investigators said.

At least three witnesses claimed seeing the three men near Cruz's house a few hours before Agustin was killed.

Morete, according to Lapuz, is held for murder and has not been turned as a state witness.

Because the case was proceeding at a "very slow pace," Cruz said she, the witnesses and her father's supporters were having a hard time looking for funds to sustain the fight for justice.

CONSTITUTION

A GROUP demanding a constitutional process for the removal of President Macapagal-Arroyo is kept at bay by soldiers in a recent rally in Davao City.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Gov plans relocation to deal with trash problem

KAWIT, Cavite—Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi on Friday announced the provincial government's plan to relocate residents along coastal communities in Cavite, which were found to have serious garbage problems for years.

During the second leg of the bimonthly clean-up campaign, Maliksi said his office was now closely working with concerned government agencies to come up with a comprehensive plan to finally solve the garbage problems in the coastal areas.

He admitted that informal settlers in coastal communities are among the biggest sources of domestic wastes dumped in creeks, the bay area and other bodies of water.

Maliksi allayed fears of fishermen as he assured them that the relocation site would be near the coastal areas.

He said his office would also offer alternative sources of livelihood to the residents.

"I fully understand their situation. I know that the bay area is their primary source of livelihood. That's why we are trying to preserve the (marine resources of Cavite)," Maliksi told the INQUIRER.

After enjoining the youth and government officials, he tapped inmates of the provincial jail and launched an intensified public awareness campaign in coastal communities here as part of the province-wide clean-up program.

Ignoring the stench coming from the garbage-filled coastal areas and the scorching heat of the sun, 30 detainees facing petty offenses joined some 5,000 volunteers as they visited and cleaned up six designated stations in this historic town.

"We are more than willing to join this program. This is better than spending the whole day inside our prisons cells," said one of the detainees. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sayyaf member in 2002 Zambo bombings held, hurt in arrest

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf who was allegedly involved in a series of bombings here in 2002 was arrested Sunday afternoon.

Task Force Zamboanga commander Col. Edgardo Gidaya identified the suspect as Alex Kahal, an alleged member of the Abu Sayyaf's Urban Terrorist Group.

Gidaya said Kahal was a follower of Amilhamja Hajijul alias Alex Alvarez, who designed and planted several explosive devices that rocked the city in October 2002.

Eleven persons, including an American soldier, were killed in the bombings.

On Oct. 2, 2002, a bomb planted in a motorcycle exploded outside the gates of Camp Arturo Enrile in Barangay Malagutay. Fifteen days later, bombs exploded at the baggage counters of Shop-O-Rama and Shoppers' Plaza here. Three days later, another bomb exploded at the Fort Pilar Shrine.

Gidaya said Kahal was also involved in the hostage-taking of students and teachers, including Claretian Missionary Rhoel Gallardo, in Sumisip and Tuburan towns of Basilan in 2000, and in the kidnapping of American Jeffrey Schilling in 2001.

Gidaya said Kahal was wounded when he tried to lob a grenade during his arrest in Barangay Recodo on Sunday. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

FILE PHOTO of members of the terror group Abu Sayyaf.
PDI FILE

MILF leader says Sayyaf operative in Maguindanao

COTABATO CITY—A leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) confirmed on Saturday that another Abu Sayyaf leader is in Maguindanao and is now one of the bandits trying to evade soldiers.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, told the INQUIRER that Isnilon Hapilon was seen in the company of Khaddafy Janjalani and Abu Solaiman in Maguindanao.

"In fact, we included him (Hapilon) when we submitted a list of criminals to the Philippine government," Jaafar said.

He said the Abu Sayyaf leaders are now trapped in the Peris Hill in the borders of Talayan and Guindulungan town.

"What we are not certain right now is if there are foreigners with them," he said.

The military earlier reported that Indonesian operatives of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) were in Mindanao and had joined forces with the Abu Sayyaf.

Lt. Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said they would like to get the Abu Sayyaf leaders mentioned by Jaafar, dead or alive.

"His (Jaafar) revelation is another development. We will verify it. Our enemy's strength is about 30. They are too elusive," Del Prado said.

He said the military operation, which already displaced at least 2,000 people, was continuing.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, 2nd Marine Brigade commander, told Radio Mindanao Network here that they were expecting to arrest or kill the Abu Sayyaf leaders anytime.

Since the operations started earlier this month, at least six Abu Sayyaf rebels had already been killed while an undetermined number of bandits had been wounded.

In General Santos City, the local police tightened security around the city jail in Lanton, Apopong village. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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11M in Metro have no sewer access

By Blanche S. Rivera

MORE than 11 million residents of Metro Manila—or around 85 percent of the population—do not have access to proper sewerage facilities, the Environmental Management Bureau revealed.

This makes Metro Manila the second worst Asian city in terms of sewer connection; worse off than even the underdeveloped city of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Only between 12 to 15 percent of the population are connected to sewer lines managed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and private concessionaire Manila Water Co.

"The other 85 percent of the population discharge their waste water directly to septic tanks that do not get cleaned up or do not undergo treatment for years," said EMB water quality management officer Marcelino N. Rivera Jr.

These individual septic tanks are not regulated, unlike the sewer line with a central treatment facility that regularly treats waste water, he added.

EMB director Lolibeth Medrano said waste water needs to be sucked out from the septic tanks and treated every five years or it gets too thick for treatment.

Those who have individual septic tanks not connected to the main sewer usually overlook this requirement, she observed.

"People do not treat waste water in their septic tanks unless the tanks are clogged," Medrano said.

She said water suppliers are mandated to treat waste water for free because this service is included in the sewerage charge, which is incorporated in the water bill.

"The problem is that few people know it. Unless the water suppliers get a request to clean up the septic tanks, they do not do it," Medrano said.

A 2003 report by the World Bank showed that Metro Manila was next to Jakarta among nine Asian cities in terms of lack of access to pipe sewerage.

"Household waste water or sewerage is a major source of pollution because treatment facilities are lacking," the report said.

"Access to sewerage in Metro Manila is poor compared with other cities in Asia," the same report added.

Rivera said the government is seeking to reverse the situation with the passage of the implementing rules and regulations of the Clean Water Act in May.

The new law requires all subdivisions, condominiums, malls, hotels and other public buildings in highly urbanized cities (HUC) to connect their sewage lines to the existing system by 2010.

Non-HUCs are mandated to employ a septage or combined sewerage-septage system to ensure sanitation.

Water suppliers like the MWSS, water districts and water concessionaires are required to coordinate with local governments for the installation of sewerage systems.

PUVs with no fare matrix given Aug. 31 deadline

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) yesterday ordered all public utility vehicles that have been allowed to raise their fares to pay their fees and get their fare matrices from the board no later than Aug. 31.

Starting Sept. 15, the LTFRB said it would start running after PUVs that do not have a fare matrix or worse, are using a fake matrix.

The order applies to all jeeps, Metro non-airconditioned buses, Metro aircon buses and provincial non-aircon buses that have all received the go-ahead to raise fares. Jeeps and Metro non-aircon buses started raising fares by P2 on July 21.

Metro aircon buses and provincial aircon buses only received their permits on July 19 and can charge higher fares starting Aug. 3, provided they had paid the required P520 filing fee, which includes one free matrix and P40 for franchise verification. Each additional matrix costs P50.

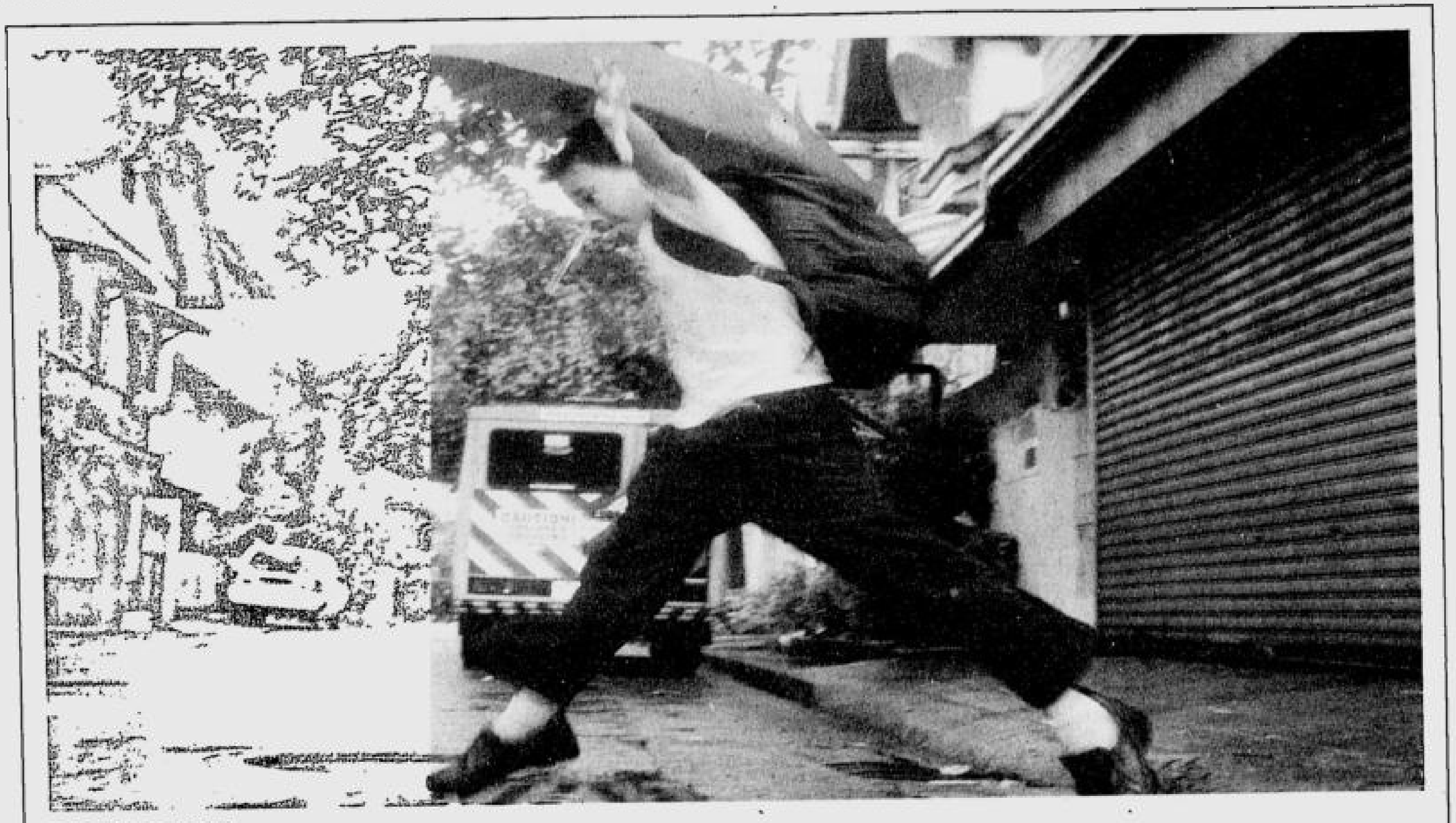
So far, LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said that there were still 20,000 jeeps in Metro Manila and 250 non-aircon Metro buses that have yet to pay their fees and secure their matrices. There are more than 45,000 jeeps in Metro Manila and about 10,000 buses.

"We have to set a deadline because we continue to receive complaints and reports of heated arguments between drivers and passengers," said Bautista.

Some operators were also complaining, she said, because of a price war being waged by PUVs that have not raised their fares for lack of a matrix.

Bautista said PUV's caught without a fare matrix or posting a photocopy of the document face a P500 fine for the first offense and P1,000 on the second offense. The LTFRB would cancel the franchise of the PUV on the third offense, she added.

Those found with fake fare matrices face a P5,000 fine for the first offense plus a 30-day suspension of franchise.



EASY DOES IT
An elementary school student plays leapfrog to avoid puddles and potholes each time the rain comes to his Sta. Ana, Manila neighborhood.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Pasay City barangays prepare to battle dengue

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PASAY City is gearing up for a war against a killer.

With the upsurge in dengue cases in the country, the city has already fielded sanitary inspectors three months before the start of the rainy season to perform larvitrapping in every barangay and destroy dengue-carrying mosquitoes, said surveillance health officer Lilibeth Ortega in an interview.

Larvitrapping assesses the concentration of mosquitoes in certain areas, she explained.

The trap uses a can—at least four inches tall and three inches in diameter—that is painted black. Three holes are punched on both sides.

The can is submerged in water and placed indoors and outdoors in barangay by sanitary inspectors, Ortega said. Inspectors waited five days before gathering the cans for testing.

Larvitrap results showed to the INQUIRER revealed that Barangay 182 had some 40 percent concentration of mosquito larvae, while Barangay 137 had seven percent, the lowest.

But Ortega assured residents of Barangay 182 that there was no reason to panic.

She said larvitrapping was just a reminder for residents to maintain cleanliness in their areas.

She reminded the public to get rid of old tires, bottles and other items where the dengue-carrying mosquitoes, the Aedes Aegypti, thrived.

"Those (found with) at least 20 percent density of larvae have to undergo fumigation," Ortega said.

So far, the Pasay City Health Office had not registered a single dengue case, she added.

2 suspects in Caloocan slay face murder raps

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MURDER charges have been filed against two suspects who were allegedly involved in the brutal killingof a businessman and three members of his household in Caloocan City last week.

Charged were Junito Espinosa and Jover Arogante, who were both employed by the victim, Andro Villa, owner of Global Heavy Equipments Inc.

The first to fall was Espinosa who was arrested in Alicia, Isabela last Saturday by the Caloocan police operatives from the Theft and Robbery Section led Police Insp. Marcelo S. Mariano. Police later apprehended Arogante in his Caloocan home after Espinosa pointed to him as one of his companions along with a certain Dante and Edlin.

Police said Espinosa was assisted by legal counsel Luwie Jimenez when he executed a six page affidavit detailing the circumstances surrounding the killings. Contained in the affidavit was information on the supposed mastermind of the killing of Villa, Joy Cambonnga, Yvanna Faye and Fely Omblero.

The victims bore multiple stab wounds on different parts of their bodies.

In his sworn statement, Espinosa he said the alleged girlfriend of the victim's father had told him and Arogante to kill Villa on July 23.

The mastermind, according to Espinosa, was inside her red car with her driver parked along 8th Avenue, when she asked Arogante if he had made up his mind about killing Villa.

"We were promised money if we would kill our boss," Espinosa said, adding that the girlfriend was mad at Villa. However, Espinosa denied participating in the killings, claiming he was inside a bathroom when these took place because he was scared.

Not guilty plea from Ramos slay suspects

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE THREE suspects in the slaying of career diplomat Alicia Ramos entered a plea of not guilty before the court yesterday, despite an earlier admission of involvement in the crime.

Roberto Lumagui, Joel Ablay, and Michael Cenil were charged with robbery and homicide by the justice department for allegedly conspiring to rob and kill Ramos on April 24.

"We do not want to say anything in the meantime," said Lumagui, when asked for comment after their arraignment yesterday in the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 147, with Judge Maria Cristina Cornejo presiding.

Though disappointed by the not guilty pleas, the prosecution was confident it would be able to win its case against the suspects.

"We have strong evidence against them. We have scientific evidence and the extra-judicial confessions of the three accused," said senior state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco.

Lumagui, the diplomat's longtime handyman, surrendered to police and city officials two weeks after the slay, after Ablay and Cenil, who were arrested earlier, identified him as the mastermind in the early morning burglary in the Ramos home at 5552 Boyle Street, Barangay Palanan, Makati City.

Before the media, police, and state prosecutors, Lumagui said he called Ablay, Cenil, and another suspect, who is still at large, one Jun Maricar, to stage the Sunday morning burglary.

Ablay and Cenil admitted following Lumagui's orders.

But Lumagui said he planned the burglary on orders of Ester Ramos-Bailey, the slain diplomat's eldest sister who had been in and out of the psychiatric ward of a nearby hospital.

He added that he and his group did not mean to kill Ramos, but only to scare her as ordered by Bailey.

The justice department, however, cleared Bailey of any involvement, and indicted only the three men for the crimes.

Ramos died of suffocation, having been gagged and hogtied by the burglars. Some P1 million worth of valuables were taken from the Ramos house, including two cellular phones, three cameras, Rolex and Seiko wristwatches, two automated teller machine cards, and gifts from foreign embassies.

On May 31, as part of the preliminary investigation, the three suspects reenacted how they entered the Ramos house and hogtied and gagged Ramos and her younger sister, Leticia, who also lived in the Palanan house.

Velasco said the younger Ramos, who saw the suspects enter their house, would be among the witnesses. Leticia reported the crime to police, after she managed to escape.

Wrong values? Look who's talking

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales is right: President Macapagal-Arroyo is being accused of corruption, but does her administration have a monopoly on corruption?

President Ferdinand Marcos' rule was riddled with corruption. So were those of Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

Ms Aquino was supposedly incorruptible. Oh yeah? What about her relatives? Why did she allow them to corner all the deals in government?

Why did she not include her own Hacienda Luisita in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP)?

As for Mr. Ramos, ask him what happened to the modernization of the Armed Forces that was supposed to have been funded by the sale of Fort Bonifacio. Ask him about how much was really spent on the Centennial Exposition inside the Clark Economic Zone.

Erap? He's so "*garapal*" (brazen) in corruption it's unbelievable he had the face to do all those things he's being accused of.

Rosales said the Filipino's wrong values are at the heart of the problem.

The good archbishop hit the nail on the head.

An example of wrong values: when a guy retires from the government and he has not amassed wealth, people think he's stupid.

It would take many generations to correct this. We got the wrong values from—please listen to this, Archbishop Rosales—the Spanish friars who amassed wealth by using the Catholic religion.

The friars taught the Indios to be lazy and uneducated so they would rely on doles from the Church and the State. This would make for easy subjugation of the Indios.

It's a case of which came first, the chicken or the egg? So, who started corruption in the first place, Archbishop Rosales?

* * *

Wrong values include hypocrisy. Government officials accuse others of corruption when they're as corrupt themselves as the ones they're pointing an accusing finger at.

C'mon guys, get real! Which election was not attended by cheating?

The hypocrites should be reminded of the admonition of the Carpenter who lived more than 2,000 years ago: "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

* * *

By the way, some priests and bishops decry immorality among their flock.

But they don't see the mote in their eyes.

Many priests and bishops maintain mistresses and have children by these women.

Many priests criticize the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). But look who go to Pagcor for free rooms in hotels where there are casinos.

They criticize gambling. But look who conduct raffles and bingo socials—which are a form of gambling—in their parishes to renovate churches or raise funds.

You say wrong values, Archbishop Rosales? Look at some of your fellow clergymen within the Catholic Church.

* * *

By the way, while everybody is focused on the "Gloriagate" scandal, nobody has taken a look at the Bureau of Customs lately.

Since Bert Lina resigned as customs commissioner, some people identified with Deputy Commissioner Galant Soriano have been having a field day.

For example, a certain Pete at the Intelligence and Enforcement Group under Soriano allegedly demands from importers P5,000 per container that goes out of the customs zone.

An Engineer Ramos, reportedly close to Soriano, also demands P5,000 per container. A Jun R., a computer scanner, also reportedly demands P1,000 to P3,000 per container.

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2nd gunman in bar slay?

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is looking into the possibility that a second gunman may have been involved in the shooting incident that led to the death of a young television director outside an upscale Makati bar last June.

NBI Special Investigator Albert Gaerlan of the NBI Background Investigation Division said at least five of ABS-CBN director Louis "Luigi" Santiago's Filipino-American friends had stressed that confessed gunman Oliver Jameiro "could not have shot Santiago."

Gaerlan added: "They kept saying that they heard four gunshots being fired while Jameiro was being mauled."

Santiago's friends also stressed that a bulky man with Filipino-American features shot Luigi, the NBI official said, adding that Jameiro could be described as tall, but lanky.

"Jameiro, while admitting that he indiscriminately fired at the crowd, denied that he killed Santiago," Gaerlan said.

Jameiro's camp had also hinted that if there was another shooter during the incident, it could have possibly been the friend of Jameiro's female companion, Charito Angeles.

"Jameiro had described Angeles' Fil-Am friend Gino Castro as a gun enthusiast," Gaerlan said.

In an artist's sketch released by the NBI, Castro was described as 5'7" to 5'9" tall and heavily built.

Gaerlan said they are trying to trace Castro's whereabouts so he could help shed light on the case.

"Castro could be a vital witness because he was reportedly beside Angeles when she handed the gun to Jameiro," the investigator said.

Gaerlan said that Jameiro would help them find Castro after his preliminary hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court tomorrow.

However, Gaerlan clarified that while they are exploring the second gunman angle, all their present evidence points to Jameiro as the lone gunman.

"The wounded victims, including the policeman who responded to the scene, testified that Jameiro shot them," Gaerlan said.

SPO2 Merquiodi Bodanio, who was shot in the forearm, said Jameiro had pointed his gun at him and his partner "after seeing Santiago collapse by his side."

"We are now trying to convince Santiago's friends to execute statements at the bureau to support their claims," Gaerlan said.

METROBRIEFS

Toilets for jail visitors

HAY, SALAMAT!
Toilet

VISITORS at the Muntinlupa City Jail no longer need to feel uncomfortable when they find the need "to go." The city jail has recently provided a comfort room just for them. Insp. Marilou Ramizo, deputy warden of the city jail's male dormitory said the new toilet in the reception area was just one part of several makeover efforts for the city jail as ordered by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Two extra comfort rooms were also provided at the female dormitory. The kitchen jail was also renovated.

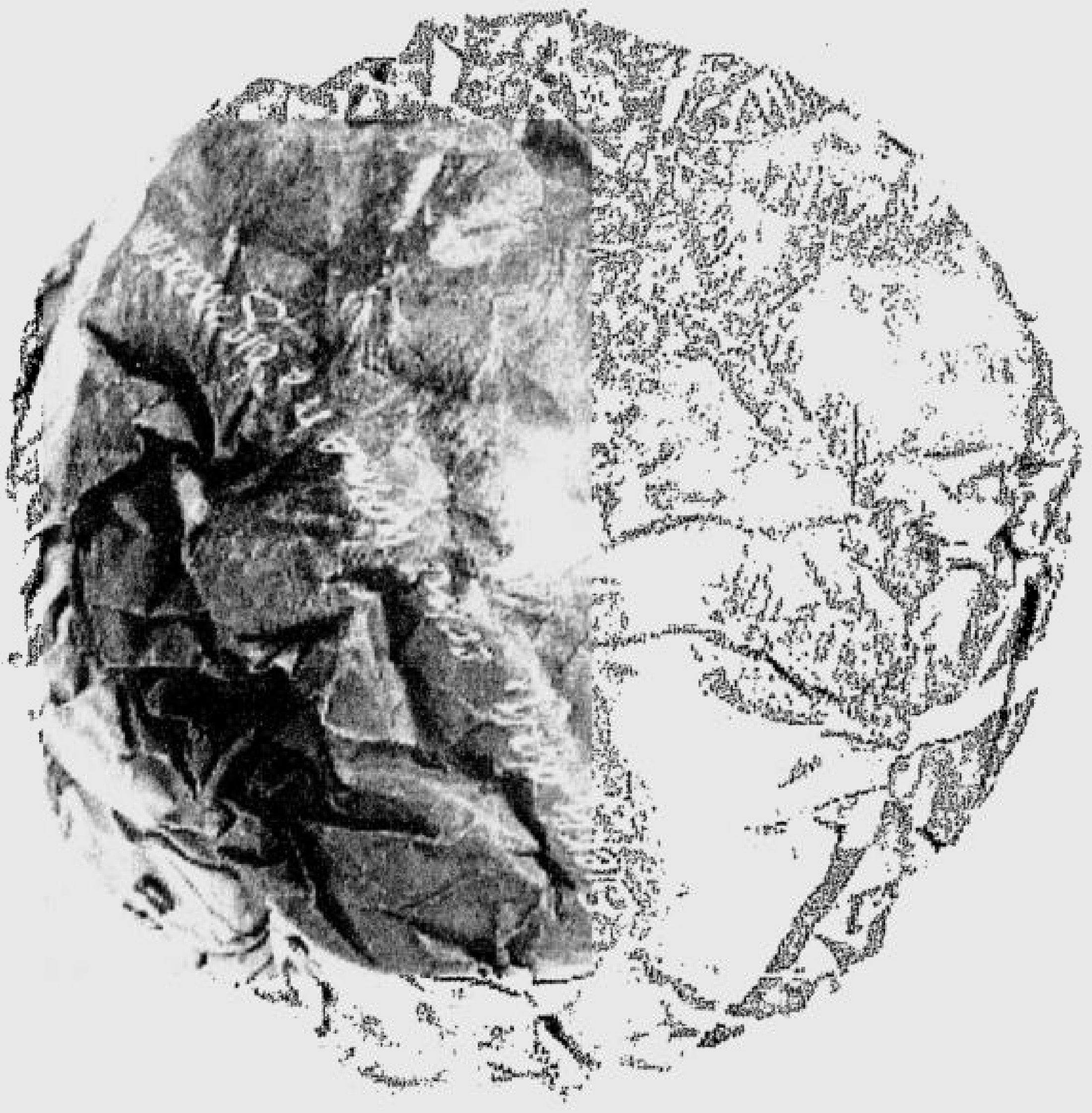
Jocelyn R. Uy

'Rush Loren protest'

FORMER Quezon City Vice Mayor Charito Planas yesterday said the electoral protest of former Senator Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro should be accelerated to help solve the current political crisis. Planas, a prominent activist against the Marcos dictatorship, said the truth about the 2004 election, including the presidential contest, could be established during the re-tabulation of election returns and recount of ballots in the vice presidential contest. Planas said she is volunteering to head a group that would watch the ballot recount to ensure the integrity of the exercise, and to help raise funds to pay for the expenses incurred in the activity. She added that she was willing to start the campaign with an initial personal donation of P1,000.

CCCI skills seminar

THE CREATIVE Collective Center Inc. (CCCI), a nonprofit group that harnesses the arts and media for advocacy, is launching Himas (High Impact Multimedia Advocacies for Sustainability) with a one-day seminar titled: Visualization: A Transformative Journey aimed at helping civil society organizations to upgrade their skills in information campaigns. The seminar will be held on Aug. 2 at the College of Social Work and Community Development, University of the Philippines, Quezon City.



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- San Beda, HAU cagers nail Asian Streetball slots /A20
- Vijay holds off Tiger charge, keeps title /A21

JONES CUP CAGING

Bronze could have been gold

By Musong R. Castillo

TAIPEI—Asi Taulava, Eric Menk and all the other big men in the Philippine team pool that finished a fighting third in the 27th Jones Cup championship here may be the elegant and powerful SUVs like the Navigator, the Expedition, or the Land Cruiser.

But in the long and uphill road to the Beijing Olympics in 2008, national coach Chot Reyes believes that a smaller, two-door vehicle will take us there.

Not Herbie the Love Bug, but those sleek, fast and furious Ferraris and Porsches.

"That's how the teams in Asia play right now—dependent on the small men," Reyes told the INQUIRER on Sunday, the morning after the Philippines-San Miguel squad bowed out of the title race.

REYES

SEIGLE

BELASCO

Despite a lineup which he said could have been stronger, Reyes and the travel-weary Nationals won six games and lost three, placing third (not fourth as previously reported) over Qatar and Russia by virtue of a better quotient that decided their three-way tie.

The United States team Passing Lane won the crown unscathed, with Chinese-Taipei nailing the silver medal.

"The style of play and the composition of teams (in Asia) have basically been a center and four shooters who can also run," Reyes said. "The non-centers may not actually be small, but they can play small."

The firebrand coach mentioned one big man who can play small—San Miguel's 6-foot-7 forward Nic Belasco—as the man he missed the most in the tournament.

Danny Seigle would have also been a perfect fit with his ability to hit the outside shot, rebound and defend players smaller or bigger than him.

Every opponent which gave Reyes a hard time here had the same weapons. They had the quickness and the outside shot.

In an epic final game against the United States which the Philippines lost, 96-99, the men from the perimeter did the most damage, especially in the end game when the Filipinos threatened hard.

Terrance Johnson, a 6-foot-3 guard with a sweet stroke, scored 16 points built around four three-pointers in the third period. He went on to finish with 33 markers for the US, the most by any guard against the Philippines in the tournament.

Reyes admitted almost drooling at seeing how Russia, which the Nationals beat handily, played.

"They're not the (Russian) national team," he noted. "But did you see how smooth they played? Italy and Argentina play the same way and it's a style (of game) I like so much."

Against host Chinese-Taipei on Saturday night, the Filipinos yielded a total of 11 triples, six of them in the first period and the last three coming in the final 6 minutes and 11 seconds.

Those treys opened up the inside for 6-foot-10 Tseng Wen-ting, who went on to scorch the Philippines with 28 points on a perfect 10-of-10 from the field. The 21-year-old Taiwanese giant also collared 10 rebounds and had six blocks.

The first RP loss, which came at the hands of a bunch of high schoolers from the Australian Institute of Sports, also followed the same fatal pattern—Ryan Kersten and 6-7 swingman Stephen Weigh connecting with impunity from the outside.

Reyes expects a lot from his guards and swingmen to unclog the middle for Taulava and Menk.

And he is digesting all the lessons learned in this tournament, throwing none away.

"We're running on schedule as far as Fiba-Asia (2007) is concerned," said Reyes, who also admitted that if the Asian Games were to be played next month, "we'd be lucky to land a medal."

Sizzling Banal debut as Lions score

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SAN Beda Lions may have found hope in new coach Koy Banal.

Banal made a grand NCAA basketball tournament debut yesterday as his pumped-up Lions stunned defending champion Philippine Christian U Dolphins, 78-72, at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Senior forward Jerome Paterno delivered his finest performance this season with 27 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks. Yousif Aljamal added 19 markers.

Banal, however, credited former Lions mentor Nash Racela for the major upset.

"I still give all the credit to coach Nash. It's still his system," said Banal, who steered Far Eastern to the 2003 UAAP title campaign before parting ways with the Tamaraws last year.

The Dolphins dropped their second straight game for a 6-2 record, while the Lions, who shared the basement with the Jose Rizal U Bombers in the first round, moved up to 2-6.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
2 p.m.—Perpetual vs Mapua (Srs)
4 p.m.—Jose Rizal U vs Letran (Srs)
6 p.m.—Jose Rizal U vs Letran (Jrs)

Earlier, the San Sebastian Stags banked on a solid third-quarter performance to coast to a 63-49 win over the listless St. Benilde Blazers.

Top forward Leo Najorda powered the Stags with 14 points and 11 rebounds. He was backed by Red Vicente and Jim Viray who contributed 14 points apiece.

The Blazers skidded to their fifth straight loss after a strong 3-0 start.

Meanwhile, NCAA chair Fr. Victor Calvo of host Letran said at least four agents from the National Bureau of Investigation were deployed in yesterday's games.

The league turned to the bureau recently for help in containing alleged "game fixing, point shaving and other gambling forms using the results of the basketball league."

"We just want a clean tournament," said Calvo.

Paterno shot 16 points in the first half which the Lions took at 40-28. Aljamal then took over in the third quarter to give the Lions a 15-point cushion, 53-38.

Gabby Espinas and Jason Castro triggered a rally, but the Dolphins could get no closer than five in the last 35 seconds.

In junior play, the Cubs cruised past the Baby Dolphins, 89-47, to remain on top at 6-1. The Staglets shared the lead after disposing of the Greenies, 70-64.

The scores:

First Game

SSC 63—Najorda 14, Viray 14, Vicente 14, Ballesteros 4, Aquino 4, Quiamco 3, Delgado 2, De Leon 2, Lindaya 2, Aguilar 2, Santos 2.

BENILDE 49—Porras 14, Orbeta 14, Manding 9, Morial 6, Urra 2, Giang 2, Layug 0, Robles 0, Trillo 0, Aldover 0, Devaras 0, Good 0.

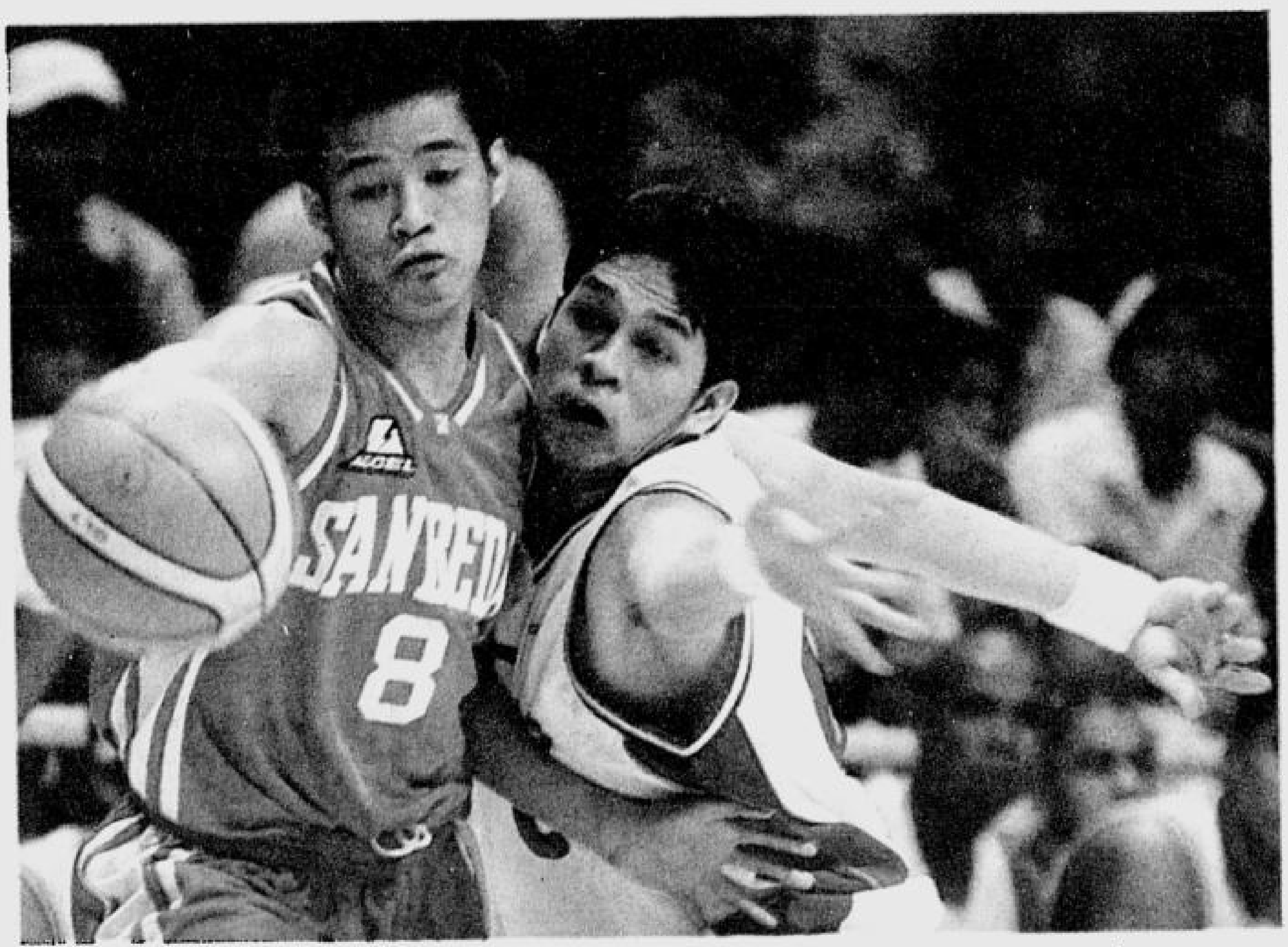
Quarters: 23-14, 37-30, 58-40, 63-49

Second Game

SAN BEDA 78—Paterno 27, Aljamal 19, Tirona 9, Menor 8, Antonio 6, Gamalinda 5, Taganas 2, Arbole 2, Cruz 0, Soriano 0, Baldivia 0, Tecson 0, Angeles 0.

PCU 72—Espinas 24, Castro 14, Belga 9, Sanz 9, Cecilia 8, Solis 6, Amparado 2, Acraman 0, Salangsang 0, Santos 0, Retaga 0, Garrido 0.

Quarters: 26-15, 43-34, 63-47, 78-72



SAN BEDA'S Eduardo Tecson and PCU's Carlos Martin Cecilia dispute possession during their game yesterday. RYAN LIM

PBA meeting up; Harbour keen on Shell

POSSIBLE changes in the tournament format for the coming season tops the agenda when the Philippine Basketball Association holds its regular monthly meeting today.

New chair Ely Capacio of San Miguel will preside over the meeting set at noon at the San Miguel offices on Ortigas Avenue.

Capacio said the format is high on the agenda and that the board would want to hear from Shell representative Bobby Kanapi regarding the plans of the Turbo Chargers in the league.

Meanwhile, negotiations are reportedly going on between Shell and Harbour Centre for the sale of the Turbo Chargers' franchise and an agreement could be reached today. Sources said the Shell franchise could still fetch up to P50,000,000 million.

Commissioner Noli Eala will also give an accomplishment report of the RP-San Miguel team that finished third in the Jones Cup in Taipei on Friday.

An evaluation of Eala's performance by the board, Capacio said; is not on the agenda, "but can be discussed if somebody raises the issue."

Musong R. Castillo

Olympic body briefs Lapid on cage row

THE CURRENT row in Philippine basketball has reached an intrigued Senate.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco yesterday explained to Sen. Lito Lapid, chair of the Senate committee on youth and sports, the Olympic body's side on its raging row with the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

In a four-page letter to Lapid, Cojuangco cited the reasons behind the expulsion of the BAP and the creation of the Philippine Basketball Federation as the new national association for the sport.

The POC chief said he had given BAP officials, namely, president Tiny Literal and secretary general Graham Lim "leeway . . . to shape up and get their act together."

But the turning point, Cojuangco said, came when the Seaba-bound national team lost to the newly formed Parañaque Jets, made up of former ex-pros and show business personalities, in the final of the National Basketball Conference pre-season tournament.

OLYMPIC/ A21

Veterans head RP triathlon bets in SEA Games

NATIONAL champions Arland Macasieb and Sandra Araullo will spearhead the Philippine campaign when triatlon makes its debut in the Southeast Asian Games the country will host this November.

Veterans Noel Salvador and Ani de Leon will be the other RP team mainstays with teeners Mikki Quilala, 17, and Mimi Lucas, 15, picked as reserves who will be training with the national bets. The six athletes topped the three qualifying series conducted by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) according to TRAP president Tom Carrasco yesterday.

The qualifying events were the Bayawan National Triathlon, the Subic Bay International Triathlon, and the Asian Triathlon, where De Leon reset the national women's triathlon record with a top 10 performance.

"It will be a three-cornered fight among the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore," said Carrasco. "However, I am more optimistic about the gold medal chances of our female members. In the men's side, Arland has to work on his stamina to finish strong in the run leg."

As part of the team's preparation and depending on the availability of funds, Carrasco said the RP bets would either train in Australia for six weeks, or he would bring here instead Australian Rob Pickard to help the coaching staff prepare the team.

Aside from the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore, the other countries joining the triathlon event are Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar.

Cambodia and Myanmar are only joining the men's division of the event set Dec. 1 and 2 in Subic.

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CDO'S Roldan Sara (left) and Joseph Trajano of La Salle-Greenhills battle for possession during the midgets final. The Mindanao champions prevailed, 19-17, to bag the title.

San Beda, HAU nail Asian Streetball berths

SAN BEDA College and Holy Angel University clinched berths in the Asian Streetball Finals on Sunday by ruling the seniors and girls divisions, respectively, at the close of the 2005 adidas Streetball Challenge at the Festival Mall in Alabang.

With burly Jay-R Taganas powering his way underneath for 11 points, the San Beda cagers thwarted Visayas champions West Negros College, 17-14, to capture the seniors crown and the top P10,000 cash prize plus a gift package worth P20,000 from the sponsoring adidas.

The HAU cagebelles, on the other hand, prevailed by the skin of their teeth over a tough University of Mindanao side, 16-15, to pocket the girls diadem in the two-day finals co-presented by Globe Gentxt.

The Luzon champions, who also nipped the UM bets in their pre-final match, 13-12, Saturday, likewise won P10,000 in cash and P20,000 worth of adidas gift certificates.

San Beda, the National Capital Region champion, and Holy Angel U thus advanced to the sixth adidas Asian Streetball Finals, featuring the best 3-on-3 teams in the region, slated Sept. 2-4 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Leann Mary Ramirez fired 11 points while Kathrina Reyes and Margot Osio tossed in three and two points for HAU, which got a big lift from the defeat of fancied NCR champion UP-Diliman by also-ran University of San Carlos-Visayas earlier in the day.

But the Pampanga bets had to go through some anxious moments before disposing of the stubborn UM cagebelles in the 20-minute encounter and earning a crack at the prestigious Asian event backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bar, Coppertone, adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

With Taganas proving unstoppable inside, San Beda broke away from an 11-all contest in the last five minutes of play. His unmolested lay-up with 12 seconds left sealed the win for the Mendiola-based cagers, who overcame the absence of top gun Rogemar Menor throughout the finals.

But Taganas, John Carlos Hermida Jr. and Eduardo Tecson Jr. proved up to task in the highly physical finals. Tecson chipped in four points and Hermida had two.

The victory was a revenge of sort for San Beda, which dropped a 16-15 decision to West Negros College in their pre-final game.

In juniors play, La Salle-Greenhills used its height and heft advantage to trounce University of Southern Philippines Foundation, 21-13, Saturday for the crown.

Vince Anthony Fran and Nicolas Salva came through with seven points apiece as the NCR champions seized control early and never looked back to coast to the victory worth P10,000 plus P20,000 worth of adidas gift certificates.

Matthew Wilson Sia added six points while Marco Arsenio Yulo had one for La Salle, which swept its three games in the pre-final phase.

The win actually made up for La Salle's defeat to the unbeaten City Government of Cagayan de Oro squad, the Mindanao champions, in the midgets finals, 17-19.

Carlos Sendaydiego finished with eight points, John Escoro scored five and Roldan Sara and Kenith Llauderes contributed three each for the Cagayan de Oro bets who also took home the winner's prizes.

U of Makati fives sweep Naascu foes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY of Makati downed its rivals in the seniors and juniors divisions of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament yesterday at the UM Gym.

The Umak Wizards edged Ama Computer, 77-74, to improve their record to 2-3 behind the unbeaten co-leaders University of Manila, St. Clare and STI.

Earlier, the Young Wizards drubbed Better Children of St. Clare Montessori Center, 99-80, to post their first victory in three starts.

It was BCSCMC's third defeat in as many games.

James Mangaran led the Wizards with 26 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Gerald Lorica added 16 points and six rebounds.

Archie Dublin, Mark Bull and Josel Suarez paced Amacu, which took its fourth loss in five games. Dublin had 14 points and three assists, Bull added 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Suarez chipped in 12 points.

Earlier, Earl Rugeria exploded with 32 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Young Wizards while BCSCMC leaned on Alvin Cruz, who scattered 29 points and collared 11 boards.

Also putting up big performances were Ronald Facundo, who notched 16 points and eight rebounds, and Jetson Fatalla who made 13 points and issued four assists.

Darrel Nodora added 16 points, Janjan Acebron 11 and Mark Dabu 10 for BCSCMC.

STANDINGS	W	L
UM	3	0
St. Clare	3	0
STI	3	0
UMak	2	3
CEU	1	4
NEU	1	3
Amacu	1	4
PLP	0	3
HAU	x	x

GAMES TODAY (*UM Gym*)
9 a.m.—PLP vs St. Clare (Srs)
10:30 a.m.—St. Clare vs CEU (W)
(*CEU Gym*)
2 p.m.—CEU vs NEU (Srs)

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

UMAK 99—Rugeria 32, Facundo 16, Fatalla 13, Aallet 10, Sanchez 10, Moore 8, Halassan 4, Buena 4, Yamane 2, Reyes 0, Elman 0.

BCSCMC 80—Cruz 29, Nodora 16, Acebron 11, Dabu 10, Benitez 7, Fulgencio 4, Chico 3, Iraola 0, Imperial 0, Pagkalinawan 0.

Quarters: 23-16, 49-37, 69-59, 99-80

Second Game (Srs)

UMAK 77—Mangaran 26, Lorica 16, Nograda 8, Tapit 8, Tamaray 6, Domangcas 4, Banguibang 4, Del Rosario 3, Commerciasa 2, Lunag 2, Santos 0, Barrios 0, Bacus 0.

AMACU 74—Dublin 14, Bull 12, Suarez 12, Panahon 10, Vergara 7, Edralin 6, Zablan 5, Matias 4, Penallorida 2, Ramos 1, Kintanar 1, Spaulding 0.

Quarters: 18-19, 39-40, 58-54, 77-74

WHO SHE? That's Diane Destajo as she retrieves a sinker in yesterday's final at the Baywalk. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Marquicias-Laborte tops Petron volley

POWER-SPIKING Rolyn Marquicias and wily Sheryl Laborte stopped the amazing run of City College of Manila's Diane Destajo and Jennifer Halos and won the third leg of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament with a masterful 21-7, 21-7 victory at the Manila Baywalk.

Marquicias, who is formerly from the Foundation University in Dumaguete City, and Laborte of UNO-R in Bacolod, were unstoppable with their booming spikes and service winners to pull off the lopsided victory.

"We didn't give them (Destajo and Halos) breathing room to make their move. That's what they did to their earlier victims. We just went for the kill at every opportunity and it paid off," said the dusky and brawny Marquicias, a member of the Philippine volleyball training pool.

Petron's Charmaine Canillas and Che-Che Tugbang, Speedo's Leni Delmendo and beach volley organizer Tisha Abundo awarded the P10,000 cash prize and trophies to the champion team in the volleyfest sponsored by Petron and organized by Abundo in cooperation with the Manila Sports Council (Masco).

More importantly, Marquicias and Laborte clinched automatic berths to the national finals on Oct. 1 and 2, also at the Manila Baywalk.

Already in the finals are first leg winners Patricia Siatan and Jennifer Bohawe of the Philippine Army and second leg titlists Michelle Laborte—Sheryl's older sister—and Cecille Tabuena of the Philippine Navy.

Destajo and Halos, who have never made it past the elimination round in previous stagings, received P5,000 and trophies as runners-up of the beach volleyball extravaganza also backed by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Toyota Pasong Tamo, Villa de Oro, Acsat, Speedo (official outfitter) and Mikasa (official ball).

Masco chief Ali Atienza said they would make the sandcourt at the Baywalk near the Manila Yacht Club a permanent fixture for all Manileños to enjoy.

Destajo's service winner in the first set after a wayward volley and a net error by Laborte actually catapulted the CCM belles to the lead at 4-3. But the Visayans strung up eight straight points, five coming from Marquicias' towering kills, to immediately seize control of the contest at 11-4.

A service blunder by Marquicias and a spike by Destajo gave CCM momentary breathing space at 6-11 but net errors by Halos and errant volleys by Destajo fueled another run by the winners, who scooted to a 15-6 lead en route to the 21-7 win.

Visibly stung by their foes' breathtaking show, Destajo and Halos couldn't get their usual game going and fell behind by as much as 1-7 in the second set.

Bumgarner returns for 'Kingdom' clash

STANDINGS

ICA OPEN—1. M. Bumgarner 206 pts; 2. M. Guidicelli 196; 3. I. Villalon 157; 4. M. Stockinger 118; 5. A. Drueco 74.

KT LIGHT—1. P. Eslao 240; 2. Onemig Bondoc 145; 3. Jose Bondoc 119; 4. Jeff Reyes 113; 5. Mars de los Reyes 87.

CADET 60 EXPERT—1. Ayrton Cuesta 192; 2. Javy Benitez 168; 3. John Alvarez 167; 4. Roman Academia 160; 5. Tomas Cabili 128.

CADET 60 NOVICE—1. Paolo Gonzales 213; 2. Renz Pascoguin 186; 3. Vencer Suba 183; 4. Joey Orduna 126; 5. Franco Rayes 114.

BUMGARNER

GUIDICELLI

BACK from a month-long training in Italy, Asian karting queen Michele Bumgarner renews her rivalry with Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli this weekend in the fifth leg of the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Ekart Track of the Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Bumgarner of M&M Racing hopes to stay on track in her bid to regain the Karter of the Year plum following a rigid training with the Intrepid Factory team in Italy.

She leads the premier ICA Open class with 209 points.

Guidicelli, skipper of the Cebu Racing Group, is running second with 196. He won two titles in the Asian Karting kickoff last June.

Out to spoil the Bumgarner-Guidicelli clash in this event sponsored by the Pilipinas Shell, Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by Philippine Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Aeromed and Aviva Insurance is Marlon Stockinger.

The first champion at the Ekart track last year, Stockinger is currently in fourth with 118 points, behind his Birel teammate Indy Villalon (157).

Joining them in the event are Arvin Drueco and Mark Bumgarner.

Paolo Eslao, Ayrton Cuesta and Paolo Gonzales are also favored in their respective divisions in the event sanctioned by the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Korean training for nat'l archers

TWELVE members of the national archery team left for Seoul, South Korea, yesterday to undergo training in preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games set here from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Those who left were Athens Olympian Jasmin Figueroa, Purita Joy Mariano, Rachelle Anne Cabral, Edwina delos Reyes, Barbara Chua, Abbigail Tindugan, Florante Matan, Mark Javier, Christian Cubilla, Marvin Cordero, Syd Nerickzon Fraginal and Zander Lee Reyes.

The archers were accompanied by coaches Henry D. Manalang and Pedro Cortez Jr. and physical therapist Ferdinand S. Brawner.

National Archery Association of the Philippines president Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner and secretary treasurer Ligaya P. Manalang saw the team off together with Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Romeo Brawner.

"They will hone their skills at the training center of top Korean coach Kim Hyun Tak," Dr. Brawner explained.

She thanked the sport's godfather, San Miguel Corp., and the First Gentleman Foundation for making the trip possible.

Figueroa's trip, as well as that of coach Manalang, is also sponsored by Customer Contact Center Inc.

Ma. Theresa Mangahas, executive director of the First Gentleman Foundation, will also fly to Korea shortly to observe the archers' training.

THE MEMBERS of the team with NAAP officials Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner and Ligaya P. Manalang and Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Romeo Brawner before flying to Seoul.

Spring, SSC-Cavite down rivals

STA. ROSA-SPRING and San Sebastian College-Cavite scored contrasting victories Sunday in the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Washington gym in Makati City.

The Spring cagers of Mayor Joey Katindig and businessman Johnny de Jesus leaned on Rodel Manuel and Mike Nuqui to nose out playing team manager Mike Dullas' Mediatrix, 73-71.

Ex-pro Roel Buenaventura shone for Mediatrix but ran out of steam in the waning seconds.

The SSC-Cavite Stags toppled the Pio-Makati Stars, 74-61, in the other game. The Stags used their run-and-gun style to defeat the experienced Stars of Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and team manager Ver Umandap.

Gleen Bolocon, Mark Yee and Jerome Cenita combined for 41 points as the Stags leveled their record at 1-1 in the event supported by San Miguel, Air21, Baker's Fair, Funtastic KTV, Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Prime Channel.

VOLLEY CHAMPS

Members and officials of the Magnolia Nutri Oil-Holy Cross of Davao College pose with their champion's trophy after topping the San Miguel Corp.-Sen. Alfredo S. Lim women's volleyball championship at the University of Mindanao gym in Davao City on Sunday. The Holy Cross spikers downed Purefoods Chicken Chunks-University of Mindanao Cardinals for the crown.

Doyle fires record 63, tops Sr tilt

KETTERING, Ohio—Allen Doyle shattered the US Senior Open final-round record closing with an 8-under 63 to win his third Champions Tour major on Sunday.

"No one thought I had a chance," Doyle said. "That's the way it's been for me from Day 1. It doesn't bother me one bit. It happens. You just have to put a low score up and make it happen."

Doyle had a bogey-free round that included eight birdies, and he managed to avoid the trouble that knocked third-round co-leaders Craig Stadler and Loren Roberts, as well as D.A. Weibring and others out of contention. His final-round 63, which beat the course record by a stroke, was the lowest by a US Senior Open winner.

Doyle beat the previous final-round score by four shots and finished at 10-under 274, and one shot ahead of Roberts and Weibring. The victory, worth $470,000 (euro 388,600), was his 10th on the Champions Tour.

He might have been the only person who wasn't surprised by the outcome.

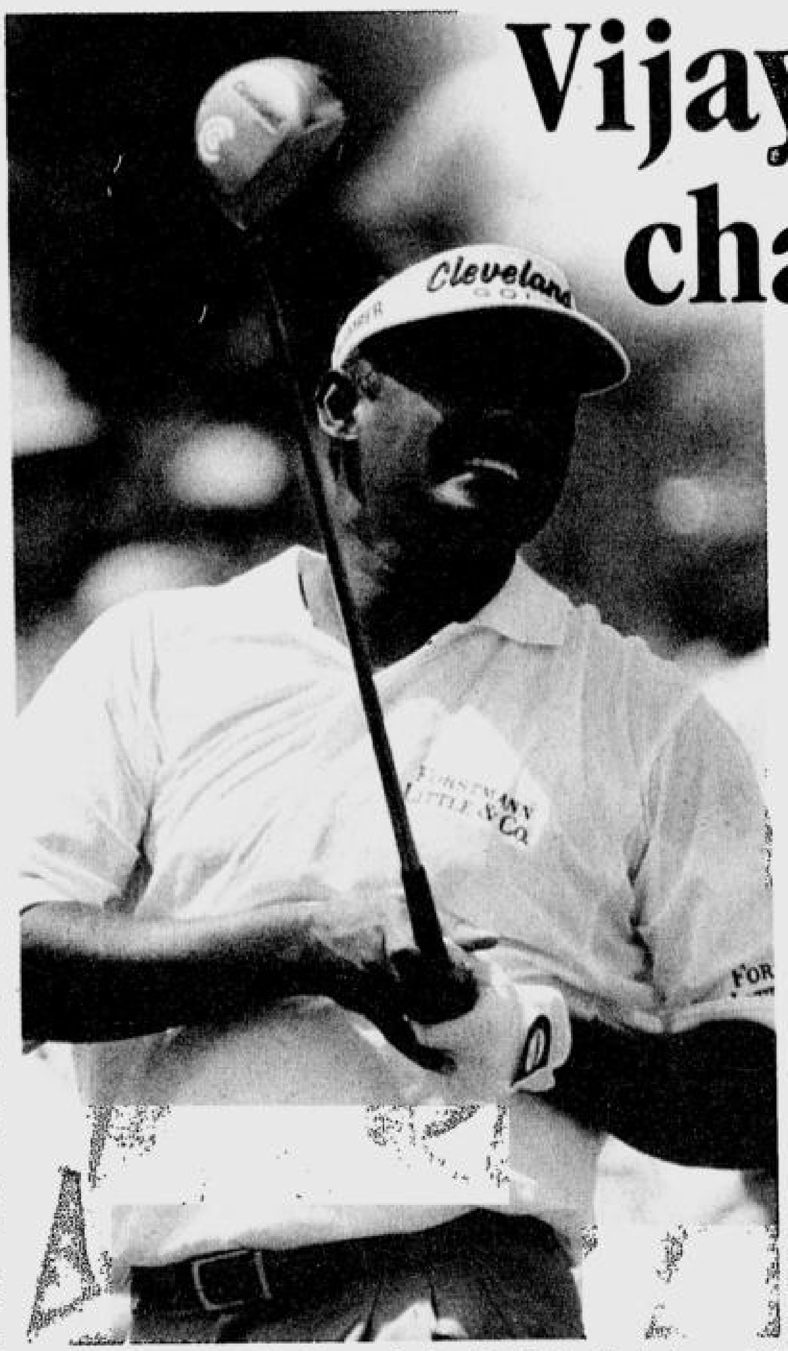
He played golf with his oldest daughter, Erin, last week and she asked if he thought he could win another major championship.

"I think I can win a major even easier than a regular event, because par is more important," Doyle told her.

Stadler led by three shots with 10 holes to play, but imploded and finished four shots behind Doyle. Roberts was in control until making a double-bogey at No. 11. Weibring was on top by a shot with two holes left, but bogeyed both.

Greg Norman and Tom Watson, among others, had prime opportunities to steal the championship, but failed to make putts on the undulating greens at NCR Country Club. *AP*

Vijay holds off Tiger charge, keeps title



VIJAY Singh watches his drive on the 1st hole during the final round of the Buick Open at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club. AP

MONTREAL—Vijay Singh held off a late charge by Tiger Woods to retain his Buick Open title by four shots at Grand Blanc, Michigan, on Sunday.

Fijian Singh, five strokes clear overnight, fired a two-under-par 70 to finish on 24-under 264 at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club and secure his fourth PGA Tour victory of the year.

World No. 1 Woods, who won the British Open two weeks ago, vaulted into a tie for second place with a 66 that included six birdies and an eagle-two at the 14th.

Woods, eight off the pace at the start of the day, picked up seven shots in seven holes from the par-three 11th on his way to a scorching back nine of six-under 30.

However, the US Masters champion began and ended his round with a bogey and had to settle for a share of second with fellow American Zach Johnson, who carded a 69.

"I got it going a little bit but I needed to do that to give myself any kind of chance," said Woods. "I thought at least if I played solid on the back nine, I'd finish second probably, and if I played a great back nine, I might be in position just in case Vijay messed up.

"He's playing too well to do that. But you never know.

"The holes are pretty easy, but you just never know. That's why we play the game. Vijay is playing beautifully, so he deserves to win.

"It was a good fight at the end but I just didn't quite get it done.

WOODS AP

"I'm not quite ready yet (for the PGA), I've got a couple of things to work on at home but I'll be rested and ready." After three spectacular rounds, Singh claimed his 28th career title and third Buick crown with a steady performance that included just two birdies.

The tone of Singh's victory suggested he is ready to defend his PGA title in two weeks' time in Baltusrol in New Jersey.

"I wasn't as aggressive today," said Singh, who will return home to Florida to work on his final preparations for the season's final major.

"I wasn't uncomfortable, but I wasn't at ease with what I was doing out there.

"I felt very much in control but at the same time I didn't want to make any mistakes. Nobody was really making a charge earlier on and I started to get into a rhythm where I was hitting greens and making pars.

"Toward the end, it got a little exciting, and that's where I picked it up a little bit.

"It's tough to go out there with a five-shot lead, it's nice . . . but I would rather have gone out there and take the golf course on.

"I try not to get complacent. I try to play in the present . . . and that's what I did." *Reuters*

Jang clinches British Open

SOUTHPORT, England—After Jeong Jang had already wrapped up the Women's British Open, Annika Sorenstam took a moment to contemplate her own failed bid for her third major title of the year.

Jang, who led after each round and entered the day with a five-stroke lead, shot a 3-under 69 on Sunday to finish 16-under 272 at Royal Birkdale and win by four shots. It was the first victory of her six-year LPGA career.

Sorenstam lost her ball off the tee on the way to a double bogey at the 18th and wound up in a tie for fifth, seven shots back. Sorenstam's final-round 71 left her at 9-under 279. *AP*

Hackett pockets 3 golds in world meet

MONTREAL—Grant Hackett finished the 11th world championships as he started them by winning another gold medal to enhance his reputation as the greatest long-distance swimmer on the final night of competition on Sunday.

The Australian toyed with his rivals to capture the 1500-m freestyle to become the first swimmer to win the same event four times, eight days after he won his first 400-m freestyle gold.

The 25-year-old law student also became the first person to win seven career individual world titles, surpassing the previous record of six he shared with Ian Thorpe and Michael Phelps, and finished the week with three golds after he also shattered Thorpe's 800-m world record.

Phelps won his fifth gold medal in Montreal without even getting wet on Sunday when the United States took out the men's 4x100-m medley relay. Phelps was not selected in the team but still got a medal because he swam in the heats.

GRANT Hackett en route to winning the gold medal in the 1500-m freestyle. REUTERS

American teenager Katie Hoff struck gold for the third time when she won the 400-m individual medley to ensure the US topped the medals table with 15 golds.

Australia, which dominated the women's events with 10 titles, won three golds on Sunday to finish second with 13 while Zimbabwe, South Africa, France and Poland finished tied for third with two each.

Australia's Jade Edmistone set the ninth and final world record of the meet to win the 50-m breaststroke while her compatriot, Libby Lenton, won the 50-m freestyle to claim her first individual world title after winning two relays.

Laszlo Cseh of Hungary capitalized on Phelps' decision to skip the 400-m individual medley to win in a time of four minutes 09.63 seconds, closing the gap on his absent rival.

Luca Marin of Italy finished second in 4:11.67 while Oussama Mellouli of Tunisia was third in 4:13.47.

Aristeidis Grigoriadis became the first Greek to win a world title with victory in the 50-m backstroke, snatching the gold in 24.95.

Hackett, awarded the FINA Trophy for the best male swimmer of the meet, led all the way to win in a time of 14:42.58 and extend his unbeaten record in the event since 1996. *Reuters*

RACING TIPS

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Race 4—1. Valid Hazm 2. Macho Guwapito 3. Zero Gravity 4. Lady Tycoon
Race 5—1. Solid North 2. War General 3. Dulce My Love 4. Jayvie's Godfather 5. Gelay's Charm
Race 6—1. Mika's Pride 2. Princess Sarah 3. Arbiter 4. Replica
Race 7—1. Transparent 2. Demolition Jack 3. Aim and Fire/Big Boss 4. Westerna Dancer
Race 8—1. Bullish Dream 2. Princess Gillian 3. Desert Breeze 4. Don Ramon 5. Caballero 6. Bashful Lady

Agassi takes LA crown

LOS ANGELES—Top-seeded Andre Agassi beat Gilles Muller of Luxembourg, 6-4, 7-5, in the Mercedes-Benz Cup final on Sunday for his 60th career title.

Coming back from a two-month layoff because of a chronic sciatic nerve problem, the 35-year-old Agassi capped an impressive run through the tournament that he also won in 1998, 2001 and 2002.

"It feels amazing. These moments don't happen very often any more and I'm taking it in," Agassi said after winning for the first time in almost a year. *AP*

Olympic body briefs . . .

From page A19

Cojuangco said the loss led to the holding of a basketball summit that addressed the "never-ending downward spiral of Philippine basketball" and eventually led to the BAP suspension when it reneged on agreements forged during the meeting.

"We hoped that the suspension would restore BAP's sensibilities," said Cojuangco in his letter. "But the BAP instead bragged that the Fiba (the international basketball federation) would ensure its continued recognition by the latter (POC)."

The POC later expelled the BAP, but the Fiba rejected this and instead banned the Philippines from competing in international tournaments.

Education first, competition second

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE IDEA is to learn. Not to win. A championship trophy is but a bonus.

Those were the code words of coach Chot Reyes when he recently brought his players to Las Vegas and Taipei.

Chot has a pool of nearly 30 players to work on in his bid to form a crew that could hopefully join the 2006 world championship and the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The last time we were in the world championship was in 1978. It was in Munich in 1972 that we had our last taste of Olympic basketball.

To win the title in either one of the two is absolutely utopia.

Just to be there, though, would be an incredible achievement in itself.

"If we don't do it now, when are we going to do it?" said Chot of his dream of qualifying in either one of them, or even in both.

Dare to dream, dare to win.

It's an impossible dream only fools would dare dream of.

But maybe, Chot must have read about a saying that happens to be one of my favorites: The causes worth fighting for are the lost causes.

For indeed, Chot's dream is almost equivalent to putting man on planet Mars.

It's almost next to impossible realizing that, but still it's achievable.

Knowing Chot, he cannot be stopped, not even if his track is blocked by a bullet train. He is Brave Heart, a Don Quixote if you will, battling windmills in his mind.

One steeped in principles, one who is lovably stubborn, that's what separates Chot from the rest.

He has, for starters, left a well-paying job as coach in the PBA (Coke), a job every coach wandering here and there in college leagues, the PBL and NBC covets.

Name me one who would be willing as Chot to turn his back at a job that pays no less than a hundred thousand bucks a month?

I don't get that much writing pieces here in praise of people building careers in sports, who'd mostly become millionaires sooner or later. Not to brag but I never had any problem with that. Labor of love we love to call it.

Seemingly, Chot is quite in our league, too.

For all we know, Chot had to endure weeks agonizing over his decision to coach the national team.

For all we know, his wife, at the start, must have readily abhorred the idea.

Who wouldn't?

We cannot thank San Miguel Corp. enough for coming to the rescue, willingly absorbing whatever the financial costs it would take to coax Chot to make the career shift.

It's a shift dreaded by career-obsessed animals. Armchair executives would call Chot's career change crazy.

I've heard of some shamelessly willing to accept peanuts, if not coffee and burger money, just to land a coaching job in the PBA.

Not Chot Reyes.

If he were in command of a conglomerate, Chot would readily trade his CEO post to a janitor if that is what it would take to make the job done.

In Las Vegas, Chot finished 2-6 in the Global Hoops meet.

A bad one, you say?

Not to me.

The Global Hoops is a tournament that puts premium more on friendship than competition. Teams from around the world are invited there for friendly interaction through basketball.

No third place there, no runner-up, no champion.

Just people who love basketball, who spouse, speak friendship through basketball. Organizers deserve a medal for world peace from Kofi Anan.

But Chot did more than that. He used the tournament as a school to learn new tricks. That's a gold medal to me.

In the just-ended Taipei Jones Cup, Chot's boys almost finished first when they were just merely trying to educate themselves, placing third eventually.

I say, that ain't bad, considering that Chot's boys had come tantalizingly close to winning against teams conceded as much superior ones.

This came amid Chot's battle cry of: "Education first, competition second."

Hey, that was an effort already worth more than the championship trophy.

Welcome home, my heroes.

***

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

BIG SWEEP: Jody Coseteng (No. 16) powers around a bend ahead of Dominic Bon and Philip Alvendia on the way to completing a sweep of the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship leg at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently. The series is sponsored by Petron Ultron, Toyota Motors Phils., Norkis Yamaha, Kilton Motors, Denso, MOF Company and Pilipinas Shell.

August Fore! Invitational set at Wack Wack Friday

SOCIO-CIVIC projects of the Rotary Club of Diliman will be the main beneficiaries of the ninth edition of the annual August Fore! Invitational golf tournament set this Friday at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Tee-off time is 8 a.m. preceding the 7 a.m. registration. Members of RC Diliman join guests, sponsors and patrons in the 18-hole event using the modified scramble format. Two players comprise a team.

This year's sponsors include Performance Forex Corp., Nestlé Phils. (Nestlé Food Services), Barclays Capital Asia Limited, International Container/Terminal Services Inc., Zuellig Corp., Manila Bank, Maybank Phil. Inc., L.G. Atkimson, San Miguel Super Dry Beer, ABC Foundation through Mr. Lew Edwards and S.L. Agri-tech.

For the hole-in-one prizes, Ropali Corp. is donating a Honda Motorcycle, Toyota Motors Phil. Corp. is staking a 1.3 Vios, Dynamic Sports Corp. a Cobra golf set and a home showcase.

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Michael Bay goes for broke

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN HIS latest film, "The Island," **Michael Bay** goes for broke in the sci-fi, action, technology and chase departments, weaving a kinetic, quixotic tale about "quasi-humans" in the future who don't know that they've been cloned so their body parts can be harvested to prolong the lives of their wealthy owners.

Each clone takes $5 million to produce, so the facility that "births" the expendable, quasi-humans skimps at nothing to make sure that its high-tech scheme is absolutely secret and secure.

However, the "god" who runs the facility hasn't banked on the immense learning and generative powers of the human brain, even as it has been approximated in the clones.

He expected that his clones wouldn't be able to go beyond basic thought processes, but some of his "products," especially those played by **Ewan McGregor** and **Scarlett Johansson**, go way beyond those limits and start to question their existence, and the real reason for it.

The island in the film's title refers to a paradise to which "lucky" clones are sent when they win the facility's weekly lotto. In reality, however, there is no paradise, and the chosen clones end up with their body parts being harvested, to be used to help their owners survive serious accidents or illnesses.

Stars McGregor and Johansson do their darndest to come up with dynamic performances, but they're no match for director Bay's gung-ho, all-stops-off approach to filmmaking. From the movie's very first images, he keeps up the pace in terms of striking visuals, high-tech flourishes, hectic camera work and editing, thumping soundtrack and relentless chase sequences involving all sorts of vehicles, from boats to helicopters, and just about everything else in between.

The visual and aural excitement is entertaining, of course, but we would have preferred it if Bay had also paid attention to his story's points of logic. For instance, the facility is supposed to be escape-proof, but the protagonists manage to flee without too much wear and tear.

Another discordant note is struck by an error in continuity: in one shot, the two lead clones' clothes look dirty, in the very next shot, they're absolutely spotless; even if they've been rolling down embankments and hiding in canals to avoid being spotted by pursuit helicopters overhead.

Third, it turns out that some of the facility's employees live outside the establishment. What would have stopped them from yakking to their families and neighbors about the facility's secrets?

Fourth, a pregnant clone in the facility was killed after giving birth to a baby that her owner promptly appropriated. Why did the expensive clone have to be killed? Her memory circuits could simply have been adjusted to eliminate all recollections about her pregnancy, and she could have gone on providing body parts for her owners.

JED Madela and Iya Villania

Despite these and other lapses, "The Island" still makes for a fun viewing experience, and we appreciate its thematic point about the human mind being powerful enough to foil all attempts to limit or control it. It must be pointed out, however, that the communication of this aspect is relatively low on Bay's list of priorities, which favors kinetic but screen entertainment above all else.

Be that as it may, we must compliment McGregor for his minor acting tour-de-force in this movie: He plays both the clone *and* its human owner, sometimes portraying both of them in the same scene or series of shots. The actor is able to give good character delineation to the two parts he's simultaneously playing—and that's no mean feat.

'The Past'

"THE PAST," Jed Madela's second single from his hit "Songs Rediscovered" album, has been made into a music video by **Jeffrey Tan**. In the new video, Jed's partner is **Iya Villania**.

The album has also been released in Indonesia, where it charted No. 2 for several weeks, topped only by **Mariah Carey's** new album.

'Voices of Love'

"VOICES of Love" compiles 18 songs performed by current faves **Michael Buble, Josh Groban, Horah Jones, Joss Stone** and **Diana Krall**. Other performers include **Jamie Cullum, Eva Casidy, Stacy Kent, Sarah McLachlan** and **Lisa Ono**.

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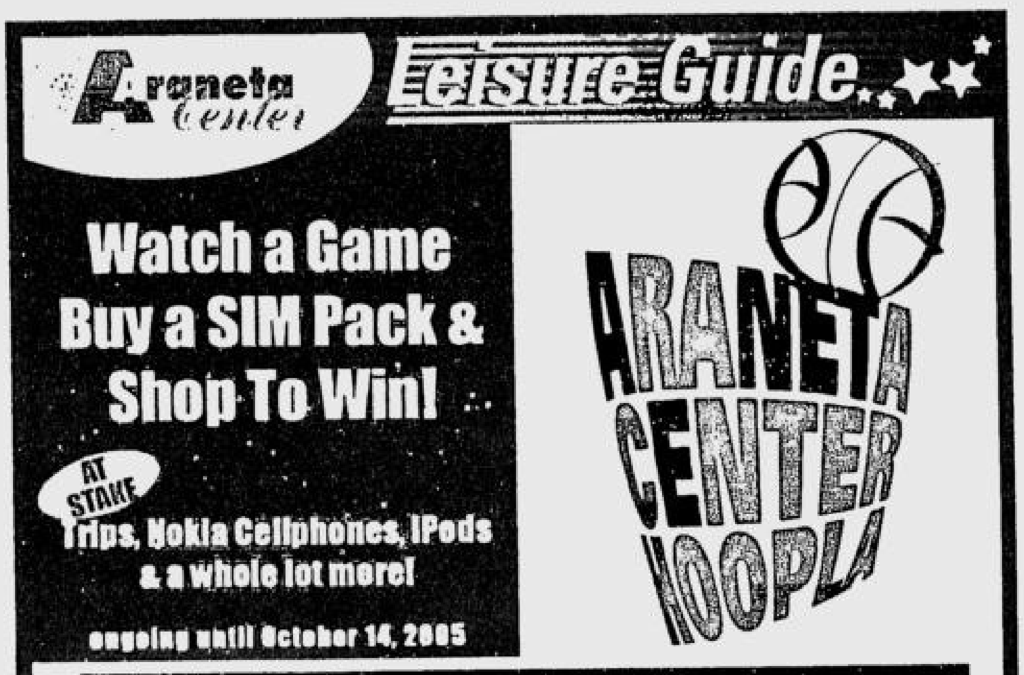
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❺ WEDDING CRASHERS 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Aug. 4 UP vs Adu Jrs 10am UE vs ADMU Jrs 12nn
UP vs Adu Srs 2pm UE vs ADMU Srs 4pm
UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES
August 13, Saturday
MTV PILIPINAS 2005
August 25, Thursday 8 pm
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE
August 26 Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS
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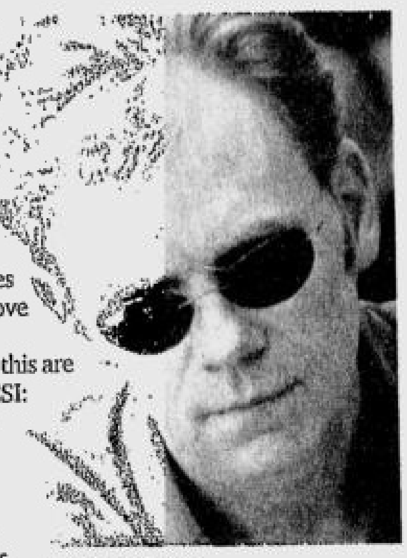
'CSI: Miami' season 3 starts tonight



DAVID Caruso

DAVID Caruso explains what he thinks the popular Miami spin-off brings to the "CSI" table.

Dark glasses is one of the character marks that the actor has used to shape the "CSI: Miami" leader's personality. Once Horatio Caine works out the clues, on go the sunglasses and he never lets the suspect see his eyes until he's got the evidence to prove guilt.

Caruso believes little details like this are crucially important to set AXN's "CSI: Miami" team apart from the other two series.

"The crime scene investigators in all three shows meet people on the worst day of their lives and I think Horatio is very aware of that," he says. "He knows how fragile and damaged people are, and it's not only about the completion of the case and being able to shut the folder. He knows it's not only about the victim, but the victim's family and the aftermath because for them this event now is going to last forever. There is a sense in CSI: Miami that we are treading on a very fragile set of events."

Second best

The sunny setting instantly creates a different feel, compared to Vegas razzmatazz and New York grit. Caruso says: "You couldn't do a show about Miami and not have vibrancy and passion and all of the things that the city is about. Even the light is different from the way it hits the negative in, say, California."

Even so, Caruso admits his show will always come second best in the popularity stakes to the original "CSI," which has consistently beaten both its spin-offs in US ratings. "You can't compete with a show that successful," he says.

Caruso admits he found pretending to be a forensic scientist harder than he thought. Real CSI are on hand during filming to make sure every detail is exactly how it would be at a real crime scene, and they—more than the producers—have the final say as to whether the scene is right or not.

"There was a day when I had done, in my opinion, a pretty good take on this shot, it felt good to me," recalls Caruso. "But the advisor wanted to examine my latex gloves because he thought he'd seen a pinhole on the monitor. In fact he was right, there was one little pinhole in the glove so we had to do the scene again because, technically, a pinhole in the latex glove could compromise evidence."

Before "CSI: Miami," Caruso was best known for his starring role in "NYPD Blue." He left the series after a row over pay, breaking his contract to pursue a movie career. But Hollywood failed to come knocking with the big screen roles he had hoped for. He never expected to have another opportunity at a major TV series. "It's kind of like a miracle to be a part of something like this."

("CSI Miami" kicks off Season 3 tonight at 10 on AXN.)

British banker . . .

From page A26

and the guys again got me out of the situation."

At 24, Rica is one of the most eligible young women in show biz. Turning her back on bold roles, which made her one of the most popular actresses today, Rica reinvented herself as a television host in "ASAP" and a dramatic actress in various ABS-CBN soaps.

Her break up with longtime boyfriend Bernard Palanca has left her unscathed. Like Bernard, it seems, her London experience is just a memory now.

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2	THE ISLAND	PG13	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

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4	STEALTH	PG13	12:15, 2:55, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50
5	WEDDING CRASHERS	PG13	11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

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1	THE ISLAND	11:20, 2:20, 5:20 8:20, 11:00	PG-13
2	STEALTH	11:00, 2:00, 5:00 8:00, 11:00	PG-13
3	WEDDING CRASHERS	11:55, 2:35, 5:15 7:55, 10:35	PG-13
4	D' ANOTHERS	12:40, 3:00, 5:00 7:40, 10:00	GP

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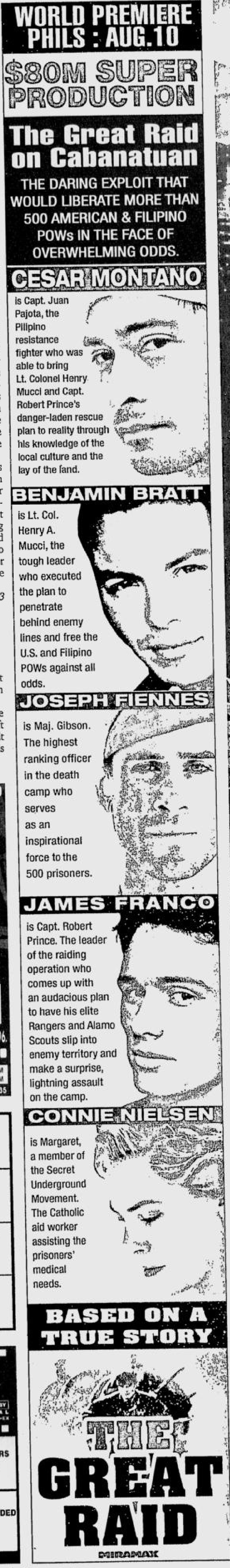
STEALTH PG13 12:55,3:25,5:55,8:25	STEALTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:20	WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
THE ISLAND PG13 12:55,4:00,7:00,10:00	THE MACHINIST R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	HERBIE: FULLY LOADED GP 12:50,3:10



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12:30FS/01:20MF/03:50/06:20
08:15LFS/09:00LMF/10:55END

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1 FANTASTIC OUR
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END
2 THE ISLAND
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END
3 STEALTH
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05
09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END

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CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 STEALTH
THE ISLAND
6 THE MACHINIST
WEDDING CRASHERS
IF ONLY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 D' ANOTHERS
12 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
NEW POLICE STORY
4 THE ISLAND
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 D' ANOTHERS
STEALTH
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
WAR OF THE WORLDS
10 IF ONLY
11 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12 EVIL DEAD

SM NORTH EDSA
STEALTH
IF ONLY
WEDDING CRASHERS
D' ANOTHERS
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 MAN OF THE HOUSE
THE ISLAND
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY STA MESA
STEALTH
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
D'ANOTHERS
ICE PRINCESS
D' ANOTHERS
8 IF ONLY
NEW POLICE STORY
10 THE MACHINIST

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 NEW POLICE STORY
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
8 IF ONLY
9 THE ISLAND
10 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MACHINIST
2 THE ISLAND
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 STEALTH
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 IF ONLY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
11 EVIL DEAD
12 D' ANOTHERS

SM SAN LAZARO
1 STEALTH
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
THE ISLAND
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 IF ONLY
D'ANOTHERS

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
WEDDING CRASHERS
D'ANOTHERS
STEALTH
THE ISLAND

SM CITY BICUTAN
STEALTH
D'ANOTHERS
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
THE ISLAND

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
STEALTH
EVIL DEAD
THE ISLAND
FANTASTIC FOUR
NEW POLICE STORY
6 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
FANTASTIC FOUR
IF ONLY
STEALTH
D' ANOTHERS
THE ISLAND
D'ANOTHERS
NEW POLICE STORY
WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
THE ISLAND
D'ANOTHERS
EVIL DEAD
4 STEALTH

SM CITY LUCENA
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
D'ANOTHERS
THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BAGUIO
D' ANOTHERS
THE ISLAND
MONSTER-IN-LAW
HOUSE OF WAX

SM CITY MARILAO
STEALTH
D'ANOTHERS
3 D' ANOTHERS
THE ISLAND

SM CITY BATANGAS
D' ANOTHERS
D'ANOTHERS
FANTASTIC FOUR
4 NEW POLICE STORY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
FANTASTIC FOUR
THE ISLAND
STEALTH
MONSTER-IN-LAW
CREEP
6 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
D' ANOTHERS
8 NEW POLICE STORY

SM CITY ILOILO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 RESERVED
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 D'ANOTHERS
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
THE ISLAND
7 RESERVED
8 HOTEL RWANDA

SM CITY DAVAO
1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 D'ANOTHERS
4 CREEP
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
THE ISLAND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
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- 1 STEALTH • THX — 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30
- 2 THE ISLAND — 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
- 3 MACHINIST — 12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
- 4 FANTASTIC FOUR — 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 5 STEALTH — 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
- 6 WEDDING CRASHERS — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 7 WAR OF THE WORLDS — 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
- 8 IF ONLY — 12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
- 9 D' ANOTHERS — 12:00 2:05 4:10 6:25 9:40
- 10 NEW POLICE STORY — 12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

ERMITA 638-7809 to 12

- 1 STEALTH — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 2 D' ANOTHERS — 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:40
- 3 FANTASTIC FOUR — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 4 IF ONLY — 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
- 5 WEDDING CRASHERS — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 6 THE ISLAND — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
- 7 THE MACHINIST — 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

- 1 THE ISLAND — 12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40
- 2 SHANGHAI LILY — 1:00 3:00 5.00 7:00 9:00
- 3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED — 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00
- 4 IF ONLY — 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
- 5 FANTASTIC FOUR — 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
- 6 WEDDING CRASHERS — 12:00 2:35 5:15 7:55 10:30
- 7 STEALTH — 2:10 5:00 7:50 10:30
- 8 D' ANOTHERS — 1:45 4:10 6:35 9:00

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2 D' ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
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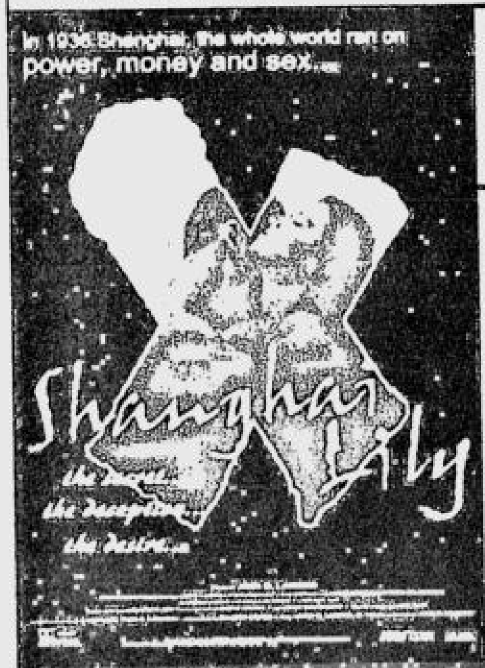
2 THE ISLAND
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR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3 THE ISLAND
4 STEALTH

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3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE ISLAND

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2 THE ISLAND
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4 STEALTH

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5 THE ISLAND
6 STEALTH

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2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 HOTEL RWANDA
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

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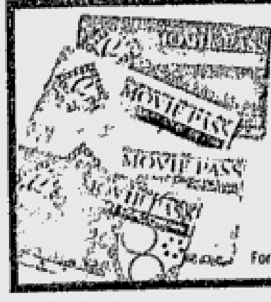
1 THE ISLAND
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 D' ANOTHERS



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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 WEDDING CRASHERS	2 STEALTH	3 THX STEALTH 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	4 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED / THE MACHINIST	5 FANTASTIC 4	6 D' ANOTHERS	7 THE ISLAND	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 WEDDING CRASHERS 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30	2 STEALTH 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40			
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX STEALTH 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WEDDING CRASHERS 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS			
	3 STEALTH 12:45, 3:25, 6:05, 8:45, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 IF ONLY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE ISLAND 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
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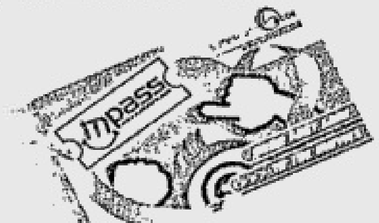

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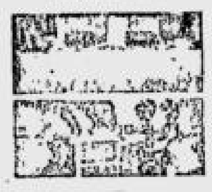

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Marvin soon . . .

From page A26

ground, low-key but it's always jampacked. "My friends don't want to advertise it," he says. "It's just a place where we hang out and are comfy. Word gets around, I guess."

Well-known bands like Rivermaya and Mongols, as well as aspiring bands, play at 6UG on any given night. The wall covered with artists'/singers' signatures that serves as stage backdrop is an indication that it's a place where free spirits converge. Is it any coincidence that Ryan's girlfriend **Judy Ann Santos** also owns a bar—Carabana? They don't need to drink booze, though, because Ryan and Juday are so intoxicated with each other!

Darna is dead

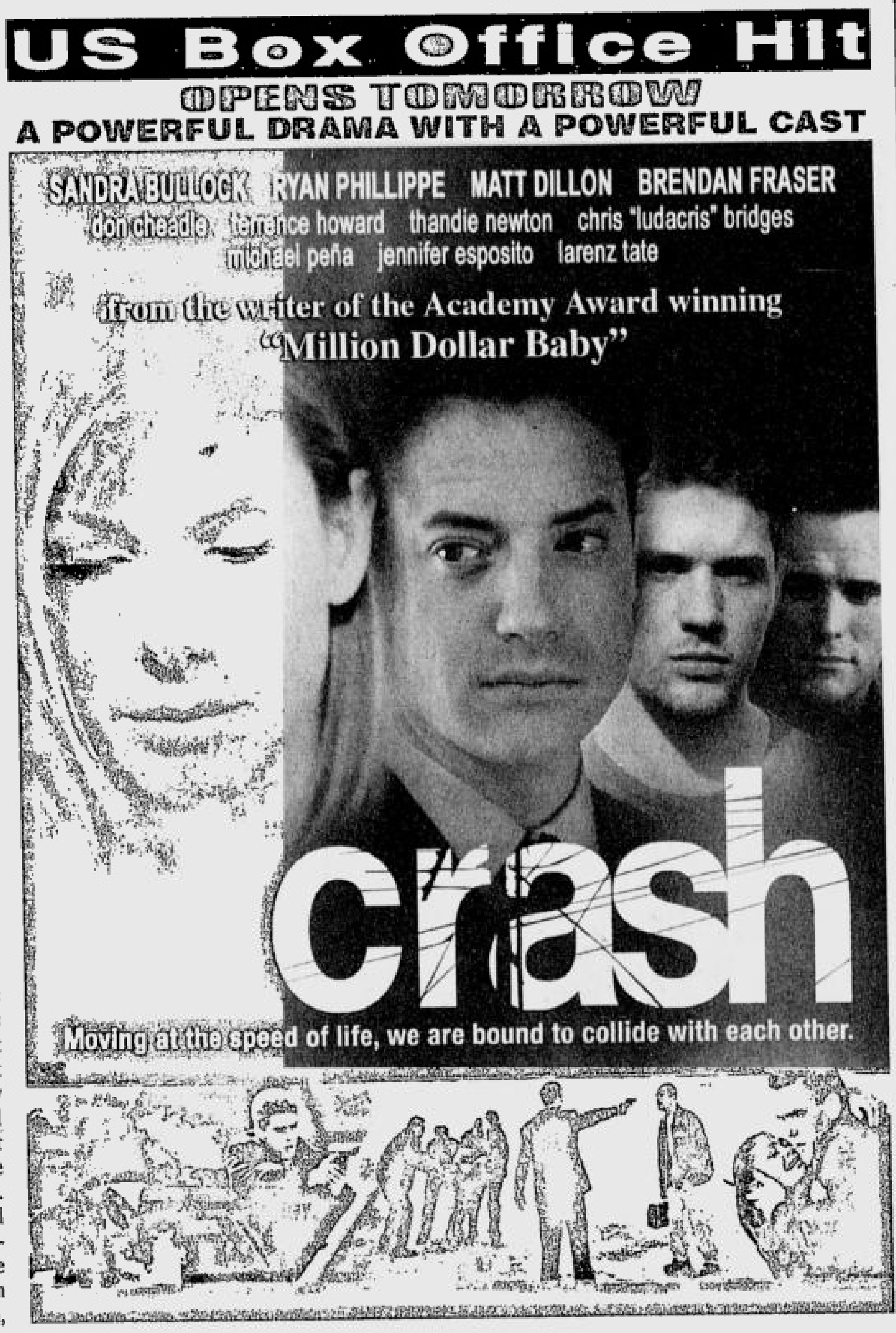
VIEWERS of GMA-7's serialization of **Mars Ravelo**'s "Darna" got the biggest shock last Friday when the Pinay superhero emerged dead from the biggest battle ever seen on the primetime TV series. They had expected Darna (played by **Angel Locsin**) to survive the formidable clash with the forces of evil, as she had done in past struggles, but the Pinay superhero gave her life as an ultimate sacrifice to save other people's lives.

Still weakened from her previous fight with the growing force of the "Lipon ng Kadiliman," a league of powerful villains headed by Braguda (**Celia Rodriguez**) and Valentina (**Alessandra de Rossi**), Darna strived to stop her archenemies from wreaking havoc all over the city. And when the enemies collaborated to form a giant ball of fire which they then hurled toward a crowd of people, Darna used her own body to shield countless lives from sure death. She succeeded, though at the expense of her own life.

With Darna's death, the "Lipon ng Kadiliman" will surely be lording it over the land. But the good must still triumph over evil. Who will be saving mankind from the merciless villains' wrath?

The top-rating *fantaserye* gets more exciting with every twist and surprise that unfolds. "Darna" airs weeknights after "Extra Challenge."

(For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)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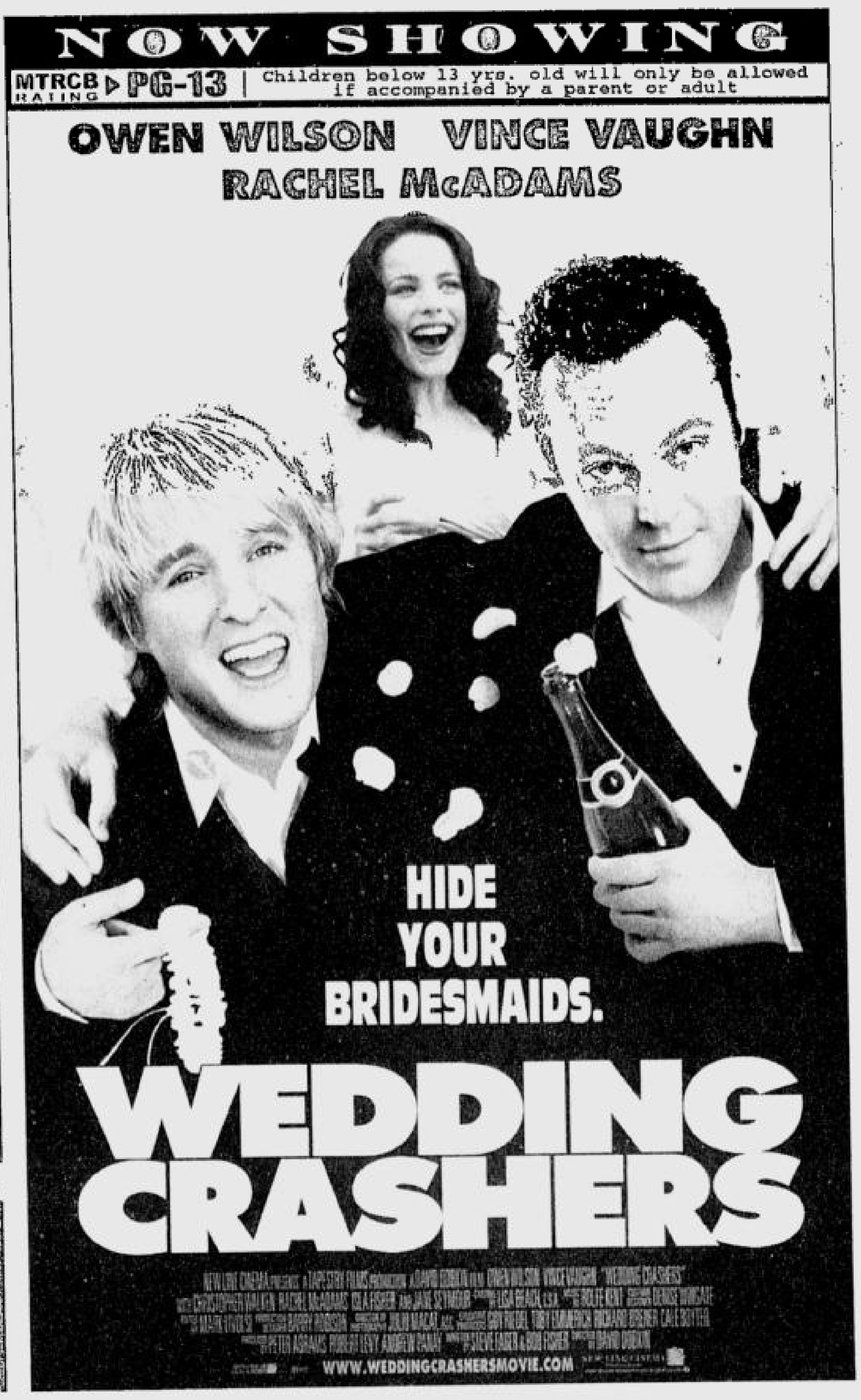
SANDRA BULLOCK RYAN PHILLIPPE MATT DILLON BRENDAN FRASER
don cheadle terrence howard thandie newton chris "ludacris" bridges
michael peña jennifer esposito larenz tate
from the writer of the Academy Award winning "Million Dollar Baby"
crash
Moving at the speed of life, we are bound to collide with each other.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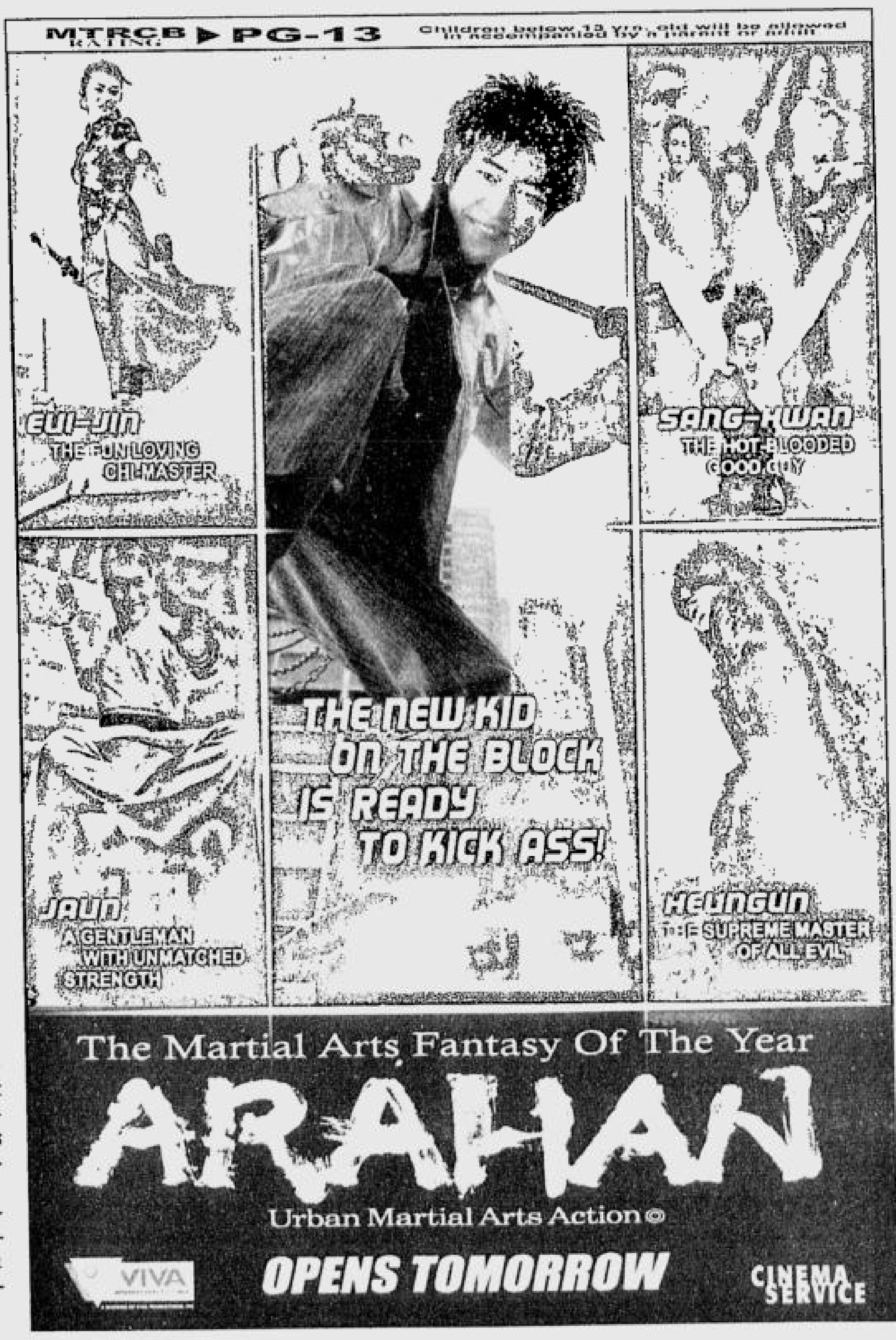
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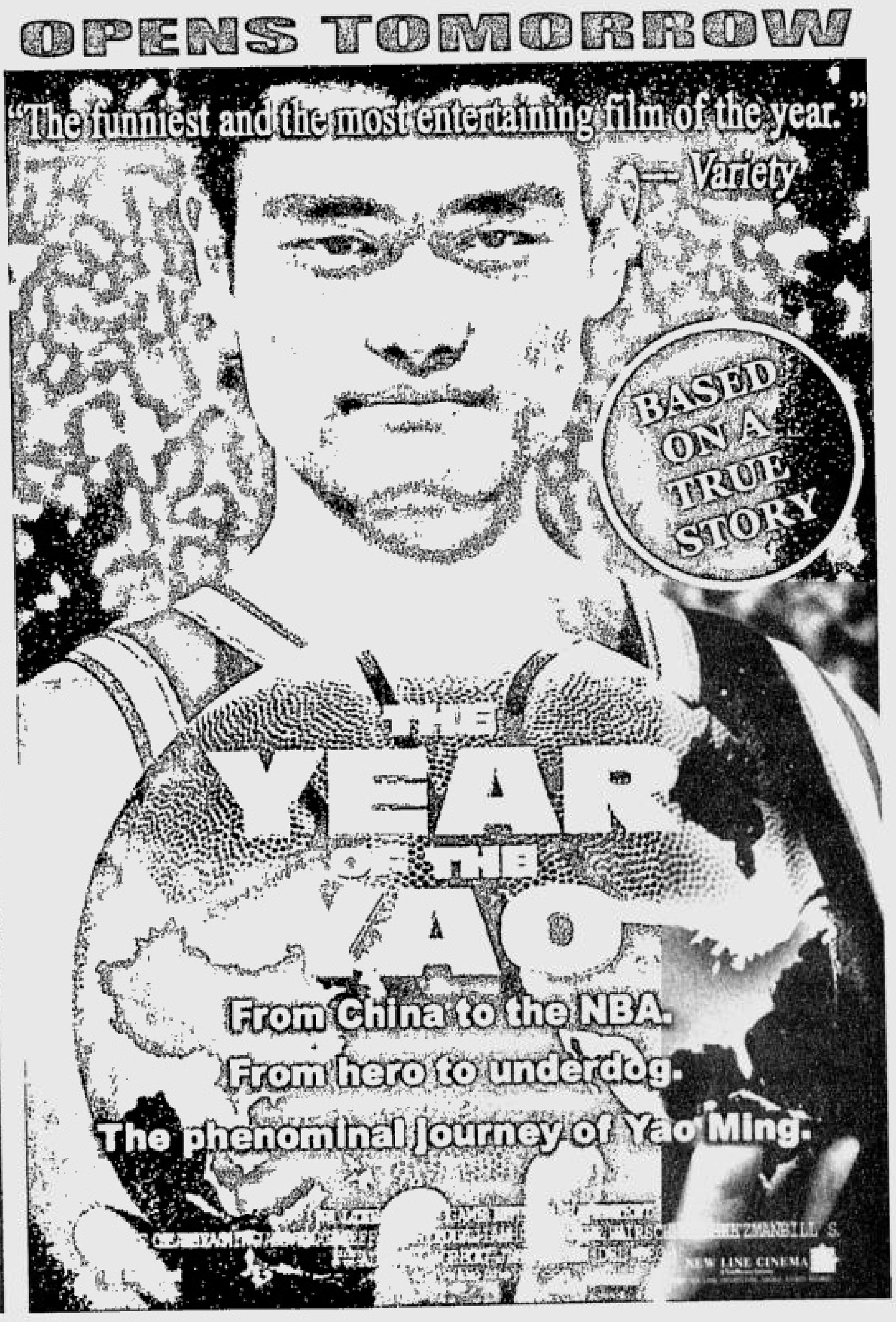
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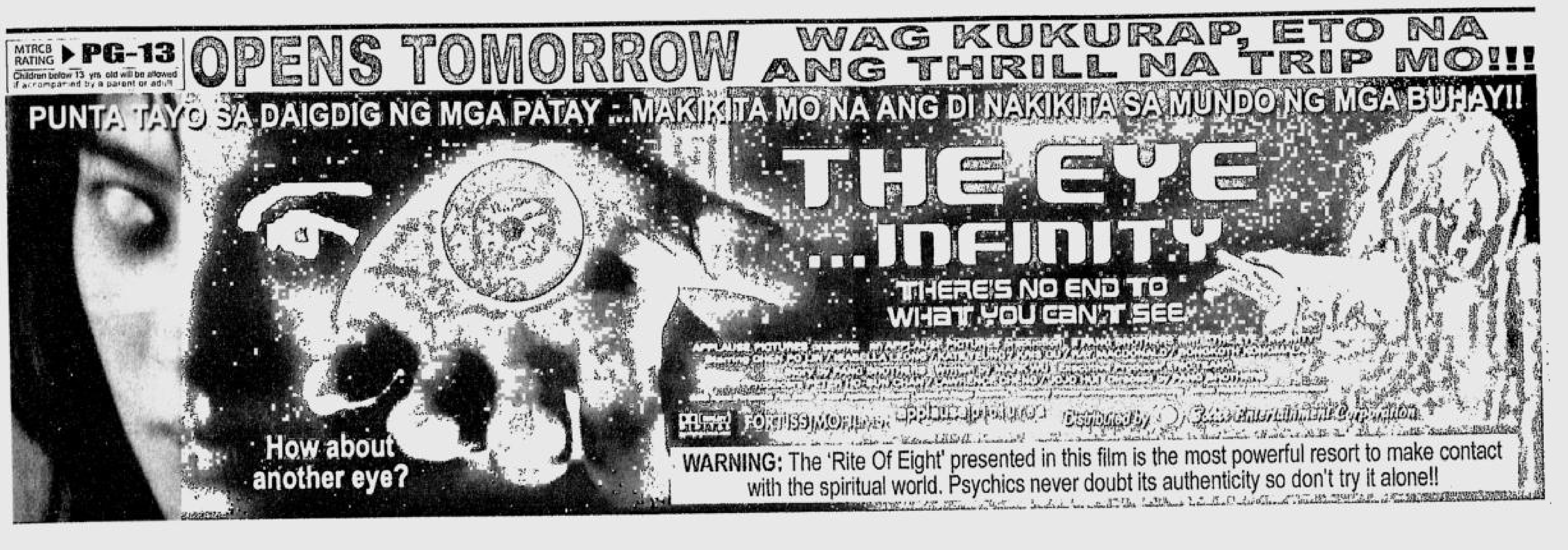
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PUNTA TAYO SA DAIGDIG NG MGA PATAY ...MAKIKITA MO NA ANG DI NAKIKITA SA MUNDO NG MGA BUHAY!!
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THERE'S NO END TO WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE
How about another eye?
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WARNING: The 'Rite Of Eight' presented in this film is the most powerful resort to make contact with the spiritual world. Psychics never doubt its authenticity so don't try it alone!!

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

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"NAKAKALOKA, but I said 'No, thanks.'"

British banker asks Rica to marry him

By Nini Valera

ACTRESS Rica Peralejo received a marriage proposal from a British banker recently while she was in London to promote ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel there.

She was in a bar called China White one night with Aga Muhlach, Edu Manzano and Agot Isidro (the cast of "OK, Fine: 'To ang Gusto N'yo!"), Rica related. "This guy's friend approached me. The friend said, 'Hi, my friend is really in love with you. Can he talk to you?' So I talked to him. His name is Dominic and he's *maitsura*. He is a banker and very established."

After talking to the guy for a few minutes, Rica said, she ran out of things to say. "I couldn't handle it. If I were a guy, *tsope ako*. Whenever something like this happens, I always ask Agot's opinion."

Agot was in the loo when Rica lost her tongue, but the older actress eventually came to the rescue and offered to converse with the guy. "He wanted to know more about me," Rica said, "but I told him, 'How can I talk when this place is so noisy?' So he asked if we could go to another place which was nearby... and quiet."

The minute they sat down, the guy asked, "Will you marry me?"

"*Nakakaloka*," Rica said. "I asked how he could marry someone he didn't know anything about. But he said if we got married, there would be the time for me to get to know him and for him to get to know me."

Rica admitted she was flattered. But being a sensible girl, she turned down the proposal.

"*Sabi ko*, 'I don't know you and I don't really want to get married.' He said if I married him, I'd [instantly become] a British citizen. But I said no, thanks."

Then, there was the guy selling roses.

"He came up to me and gave me a rose," Rica recounted. "You know me—if someone greets me, I'd say hi. So this guy asked if he could take me out. I just said, *ngeee*. He was ugly. Agot

BRITISH/ A23

Marvin soon to be dad of twins

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I CORNERED **Marvin Agustin** about rumors that he was moving to GMA-7. He let out a big laugh "Huh?...I remain loyal to my home studio ABS-CBN even if I have no projects with them right now. I have Channel 2's blessing to guest in GMA shows like 'Bubble Gang Jr' and, soon, 'Extra Challenge.'"

Isn't he tempted to make the big switch since the Kapuso network is now #1? He explained, "I just do my work. I'm not concerned with the ratings game. As an actor, that's too much for me to worry about; it will just take away my focus from the job."

Not even the lure of bigger bucks can make him jump ship. In show biz, where it's usually a case of "If the price is right," a loyal talent like Marvin is a prized catch.

"I miss acting," he sighed. "Hopefully my next TV show will be a drama series. *'Yung mapipiga ng husto ang* acting *ko*!"

When it comes to dramatic roles, Marvin has a bottomless reservoir of techniques. He will surely be a welcome addition to GMA 7, if ever, because they don't have that many dramatic actors.

My little birdie from GMA insists that negotiations are now ongoing for Marvin to become a Kapuso. Maybe he is not yet at liberty to divulge any info so let's leave it at that.

But one thing Marvin is proud to announce is the coming of his twins any day now. "**Tetet** (Dee) is due to give birth on Aug 21. I'm so excited to be a daddy!" For sure, the twins will be Marvin's two top reasons to keep striving, no matter which of the two channels he'll be in!

VIDA G. VELARDE

JAMES Yap and Kris Aquino in San Francisco recently

Shine stays behind

AS MUCH as **Cesar Montano** wanted to bring his lovely wife **Sunshine (Cruz)** with him to the United States for the premier of his Hollywood movie, "The Great Raid," she had to stay behind due to her delicate pregnancy.

"We didn't want to take risks. *Mahirap na, baka kung ano pa mangyari sa* baby *namin. Nakakalungkot lang* 'cause we won't be together on his birthday (yesterday, Aug. 1)," Shine said.

But as soon as Buboy comes back, they will definitely have a belated celebration. "I still haven't decided what to give him, but I guess the best birthday gift is our coming baby," she mused.

They are also preparing for the first birthday and "dedication" of their second baby girl, **Samantha**. The party, Shine said, would have a Hello Kitty theme.

Since they are such a playful and fun-loving couple, Buboy and Shine will surely both turn into kids again as they celebrate not only Sam's birthday but also the true joys of parenting and marriage. No amount of intrigues can ever take that away from them.

TIDBITS

JAMES Yap had better brace himself! Heard from a reliable source that someone from his not-too-distant past is finalizing talks with her lawyers for yet undisclosed reasons. Will he fare well in court as he does on the hardcourt?

***

DIETHER Ocampo lost his digital camera while shopping in Pasadena, California, during the "Kapamilya Summer Caravan." Take heart, Diet! The most memorable moments usually go unphotographed.

***

ON THE same trip, **Joross Gamboa** and **Roxanne Guinoo** were inseparable, and had a swell time, of course. It was the first US trip for both. Heard they went theme park-hopping. Contrary to rumors, they did not stay in one hotel room. Playmates only [in Disneyland], not bedmates.

***

SEN. **Jinggoy Estrada**'s charming wife **Precy** is seven weeks pregnant! They already have three adorable kids—**Janella, Jolo** and **Julius**. It's a family tradition to choose names starting with the Ejercito's famed letter J. Maybe they should name their next child "Justice" for self-explanatory reasons, right Mareng Precy?

***

RYAN Agoncillo wants to keep his bar, 6 Under-

MARVIN/ A25

MARVIN Agustin misses acting, but is excited about forthcoming true-life role.

SHINE can't go to US premiere of "Great Raid."

RUDY ESPERAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN						Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opida	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championships				Sentro	Strange But True	ABC Action Movies (Camap King)				Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Friends	Shaman King	Full Metal Alchemist	Full House		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Ambush Makeover		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Up Close And Personal		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV		Basketball Show		TM Phil 9-Ball		Nuts	IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Buhay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		The Men's Room
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Mobile MYX Top Picks	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN		World Snooker Tour The Masters '05						Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		X Games Invitational	X Games Invitational	Sportscenter Asia	2004 Skins Billiards C'ship NJ USA		Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '04 UK				Sportscenter Asia
Sports Plus				Tour De France Highlights		Strongman		World's Greatest Auto Shows		Monster Jam	Tour De France	This Is The PGA Tour		Pennsylvania 500 Highlights					
Cinemax	Torn Curtain				Nuts (4:45PM)				Caught In The Headlights (6:45 PM)			The Making Of Battlestar Galactica (8:15 PM)		The Tuxedo			The Birds II: Land's End (10:40PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Regenesis		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Regenesis					Agency II (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Land Before Time II: The Time Of The Great Giving		Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Land Before Time IV: Journey Through The Mists			
Discovery Channel		What The Ancients Knew		Rivals		The Ultimate Guide				Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Great Quakes		Science Mysteries	
National Geographic		Air Crash Investigation		The Mafia				Wildlife Detectives	Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge	Wow! Dog/God		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation		The Mafia	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		El True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World	Frasier	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives				Friends	Ed
AXN		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		Record Setters		PSI Factor (Season III)		Beastmaster		Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)		The Amazing Race 6		WRC 2005: Argentina	
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Hip Hop Nation	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Stripperella	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		Who Wants To Marry My Dad		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		Moto X Kids (3:15 PM)			Suspect (4:40 PM)				The Challenge (2003) (6:45 PM)				Dragonheart (8:20 PM)			Sex And The City: A Farewell		What A Girl Wants (10:55PM)	
Star Movies		Air Rage (3:15 PM)				Baby For Sale			Die Another Day (6:45 PM)					Six Days Seven Nights			Stepmom (10:45PM)		
EWTN	Angels Of God	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Saints For The Third Millennium: St. Therese Of Lisieux	Faith Factory B	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

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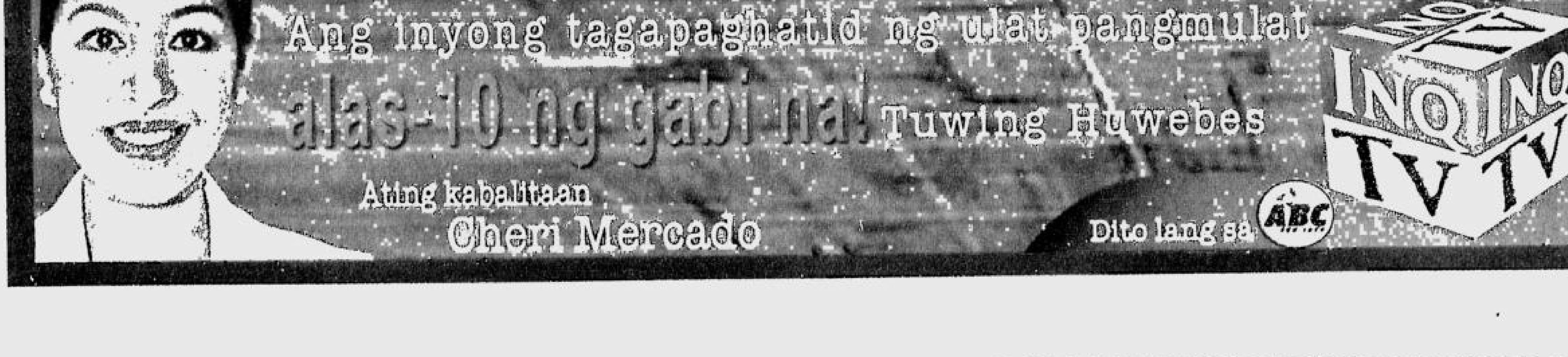

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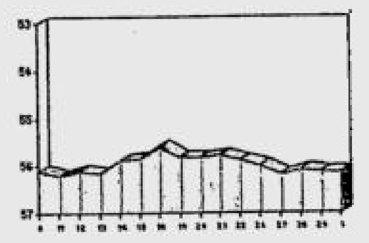


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

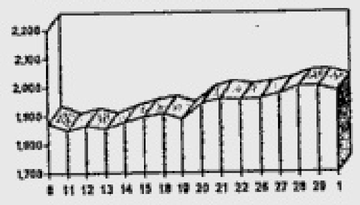
P56.14 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 1, 2005

¥112.10 = $1
As of 3 p.m., Aug. 1, 2005

GOLD: $427.40-427.90
per ounce Hong Kong, July 29, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks close 0.87% lower

SHARE prices yesterday closed 0.87 percent lower as investors took profits after a week-long rally, dealers said.

They said the market was due for a correction as most blue chips were now deemed overbought so the downturn was of no surprise and should not undercut the

STOCKS/ B4

Inflation seen to taper off to 6.5%

But rate may rise in early 2006 due to VAT hike

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas sees the country's inflation rate tapering off to 6.5 percent by December this year after staying at a high of 8.5 percent from February to May.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo yesterday told reporters that the inflation rate had been on a downtrend since June and this would continue at least up to December. He said the inflation rate might rise again after the implementation of a two percentage-point hike in the value added tax (VAT) this coming January.

The inflation rate has gone down to 7.6 percent in June and the BSP is expecting further reduction to 6.5-7 percent in July.

The full impact of the VAT rate hike is expected to be felt by consumers by March next year.

The country's inflation started to ease in the second quarter due to the slowdown in the increases in food prices, notwithstanding the rise in prices of energy-related items and other non-food commodities.

Guinigundo said that the narrowing interest rate differential between the Philippines

INFLATION/ B4

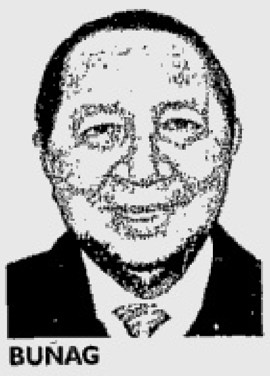
Slow progress on tax cases frustrates RATE proponents

By Daxim L. Lucas and Michelle V. Remo

Second of three parts

SPECIAL REPORT

HENARES


BUNAG

ZUÑO

ADVOCATES of the government's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) campaign are confused by the mixed signals from the new bosses at the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves has assured the public that there will be no let up in the drive to send tax cheats to jail. Last week, however, tax officials failed to show up at the Department of Justice for their weekly filing, despite having worked on one particular tax evasion complaint over the last few weeks.

Fiscal authorities are now adopting a softer stance, saying they want to prioritize tax collections while keeping the option of criminal prosecution only as an implied threat - a tack that has largely been discredited in recent years.

No one knows this more than former Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr.

He believes that the government's old policy of entertaining compromise-settlement offered by tax evaders did not really work well to improve revenue collections. While compromise settlements helped the BIR achieve its short-

SLOW/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Market topping out /B4

Treasury bill rates fall /B3

Peso hits 3-week low, but closes at 56.14 to $1 /B5

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If it ain't broker

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOBODY could say if the officials of the Bangko Sentral got one-day passes from basement ward attendants, but they actually tried their luck at...well, peace talks.

Heading the Bangko Sentral peace panel was the new *ccapo de tutti capi* of the country's monetary and financial system, Bangko Sentral Gov. Armando Tetangco.

Apparently, Tetangco wanted to broker peace between the two warring groups of stockholders at Equitable PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank.

Featured in the squabble were the Go family, who owned 25 percent, and the GSIS-SSS-Trans Middle East-Sy group, which together owned about 47 percent.

In the Bangko Sentral-brokered peace talks, Tetangco's panel spent roughly 30 minutes with the Go family, before the Go family sued for snacks.

The GSIS-SSS-Trans Middle East-Sy group, also known as the government side, on the other hand, got a treat from the Tetangco panel when it faced them for hours.

Nobody could say if the ease by which the Go family hurdled the Bangko Sentral brand of peace process was any indication of which side Tetangco was leaning on.

* * *

IT seems the Tetangco panel needed to work more on the government side, because the Tetangco panel gave the government an offer it could just refuse.

In effect, to bring about peace in the bank, the Tetangco panel simply wanted the government side to give way to the Go family.

After all, the Go family wanted to control the bank, with their 25 percent ownership, at the expense of the GSIS and the SSS.

Sure, by suggesting that GSIS and SSS should give way to the Go family, Tetangco and company probably only wanted to protect public interest.

GSIS and SSS, as you know, only invested some P16 billion of our retirement, disability and death benefit funds in the bank about six years ago.

Our pension funds also do not have anything to show for their investments in the bank up to now. In fact, the market value has already been cut by about half.

For our sake, the Tetangco panel proposed three innocent-sounding steps toward peace in the bank—i.e. status quo in the stranglehold by Go family.

And they were that the two sides, one, keep the management, two, stop the filing of court cases and, three, split the board seats between them.

By the way, in another stroke of brilliance to protect public interest, the Tetangco panel also told the two sides to stop talking to media. Hmm.

There, it's the media menace all over again. At the first sign of trouble, we always get the blame. It's as if we are the ones fooling around.

***

AND so, since the Tetangco panel asked the two warring groups to stop filing cases, only two days after the peace talks, no wonder, the Go family filed three cases in succession.

Nobody could say if the Tetangco panel-brokered peace was part of the strategy, but the Go family filed a case before a Makati court, another one before the Court of Appeals, and a third one before the Supreme Court.

All of the cases involved the 10 percent supposedly "treasury shares," which the bank bought with its own money, and not the Go family's money.

Six years ago, the Go family and the GSIS-SSS went into a joint venture to buy PCIBank. The GSIS-SSS gave P16 billion in hard cash.

The Go family contributed fond wishes.

In other words, the Go family simply used the money of the bank in the joint-venture buyout. And all these years, the Go family has been using the "treasury shares" to help them keep control of the bank, even with only a 25-percent ownership.

In all those three cases, which the Tetangco panel supposedly did not want the warring groups to file, the Go family sought to keep their command over the "treasury shares."

* * *

EARLIER, a Makati court issued an injunction involving those "treasury shares," in effecting negating the TRO issued by another Makati court on the same shares.

Down here in my barangay, where GSIS and SSS members struggle to make ends meet, that is also known as "forum shopping," meaning, it is bad.

Supposedly, a retired justice filed a case, asking the Makati court to force the corporate secretary of the bank, a young lawyer named Nilo Divina, to recognize those "treasury shares" during the last annual stockholders meeting.

In other words, the Go family could use the "treasury shares"—once again.

Now, another Makati court already issued a TRO against the same "treasury shares," saying that they could not be used for the annual meeting.

First of all, one court cannot issue an order against another court. That is the rule. Otherwise, the courts can do nothing but fight each other, much like our politicians.

Of course, there could always be millions of reasons why a court would break the rule. In this case, unfortunately, the interest of SSS and GSIS members was not one of them.

* * *

IN effect, even if the case was supposedly filed against the bank, the injunction order actually favored the Go family in the stockholders meeting.

And Divina, as corporate secretary, followed it willingly without much of a whimper.

In the last stockholders meeting, by the way, Divina took it upon himself to preside, taking the role of the chair, none other than Tony Go.

Divina, without much ado, threatened to throw out those who did not follow the script that the Go family prepared for the meeting.

He just declared them out of order, including GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia, who questioned the use of those "treasury shares" in the meeting.

In effect, the court injunction order told Divina to do something that was against the by-laws of the bank. Divina did not even protest against it.

Under the bank by-laws, you see, treasury shares cannot be used to determine the existence of quorum in the stockholders meeting.

The government side has been arguing, if that was the case, it followed that those shares could not be used to vote for board members.

For how can you use something that's not supposed to be there in the first place?

The government side complained that not only did the Go family, courtesy of the corporate secretary Divina, use the treasury shares to determine quorum, they also used the shares to vote for their directors in the board.

They of course voted for themselves. Oh, of course, and also their attack dogs!

***

SINCE the Go family disregarded the Tetangco panel no-court-case peace initiative, the government side thus also went straight to the Supreme Court.

Otherwise, the government side would have lost their battle for reforms in the bank by default. In colegiala-speak, they were "making *tulog* in the pansitan."

And so it seems to me that the Bangko Sentral-brokered peace served as a ruse. It could have stopped the government side from taking the initiative.

How else could you look at it? Look, one of the other proposals by the Tetangco panel was for the two warring groups to split the board between them.

That means, the Go side (with 25 percent ownership) would get seven seats, and the government side (with 47 percent ownership) would also get...well, seven.

Aside from its using bad mathematics, as in "25 equals 47," the proposal of the Tetangco peace panel reeked of a sellout—with GSIS and SSS members as the merchandise.

Under the Tetangco panel's bright idea, the swing vote in the board, the one remaining seat, would go to management.

Thus, Equitable PCI president Rene Buenaventura, who would take the management seat, should become the most powerful man in the bank.

The Tetangco panel did not mind that Buenaventura was the same guy who, in past tussles between the two groups, forgot to stay neutral by siding with the Go family.

Which only makes you wonder where the Tetangco panel learned its math. No, don't tell me, not from the ward attendants!

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LOWEST IN 11 YEARS

Tax effort slid in 2004 to 9.88%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CONTRIBUTION of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to Gross Domestic Product fell to 9.88 percent last year, its lowest level in 11 years.

The last time the tax effort—computed as total BIR collections over GDP—hit a single-digit level was in 1993 when the tax effort reached 9.9 percent.

It went up to 11.09 percent in 1995 and hit a peak of 13 percent in 1997.

The tax effort has been sliding ever since, from 12.65 percent in 1998 to 11.47 percent in 1999, 10.76 percent in 2000, 10.7 percent in 2001, and 10.16 percent in 2002.

The BIR said in its 2004 annual report that the 9.88-percent tax effort last year was based on P468.12 billion in collections.

It was more than P8 billion below the target of P477 billion, but 12.56 percent over the previous year's collection.

The tax effort is often used to measure the country's ability to generate revenues.

It is based on the principle that the growth in economic productivity should be reflected in an increase in tax collection.

With the declining tax effort, BIR Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Buñag said the revenue agency was bent on pursuing reforms to raise revenues and meet its collection target this year of P547 billion.

Buñag said these programs include the tax compliance verification drive, enhancement of the BIR's electronic services, and the BIR's "I-text ang Resibo Raffle promo, which he said contributed to the increase in the BIR's revenue collection last year.

The government is counting on the revenue collection of the BIR to help close the budget gap this year as it accounts for about 60 percent of the government's revenues.

The government hopes to reduce the budget deficit to P180 billion this year, from P187 billion last year.

Slow progress on tax cases . . .

From page B1

term objective of collecting the unpaid liabilities of tax evaders, it did not achieve the long-term goal of curing the culture of tax evasion.

He cites the case of actor Richard Gomez, whose recent tax evasion case filed under the RATE program was already his second. In his first case several years ago, the BIR agreed to drop the criminal charge against Gomez in exchange for the settlement of his tax liabilities, Parayno said.

"Clearly, people don't learn their lessons with the BIR's old policy," he complained.

Languishing cases

While the tax complaints have received broad attention in the media, progress on the legal side has been slow in coming. Finance officials, in particular, blame the justice department for not acting on the cases with the urgency they deserve.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño resents being blamed for the delays in the prosecution of alleged tax cheats, especially after then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima wrote President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo complaining about the justice department's "inaction."

The chief state prosecutor believes tax authorities—inexperienced and unfamiliar with criminal prosecution procedures—are to blame.

"We answered (Purisima's) letter, and I had to cite each case that's being delayed," Zuño said. "There are cases that have already been submitted for resolution, then (the BIR) files a motion to reopen the case because they realize they still have to present additional documentary evidence."

Clearly exasperated, he said such requests happened at least four times already. It turned out, he said, the BIR filed those cases without enough evidence.

Zuño is aware that prosecuting tax evaders is an important component of the government's drive to put its fiscal house in order, which is why his office has bent over backward to accommodate the BIR.

"If we have to be strict with the cases, and if we have to apply the same policy as in other cases, we'll dismiss (them) outright for insufficiency of evidence," he said.

Given the BIR's haphazard approach to criminal prosecution, tax authorities are lucky their cases are still even being considered for filing, Zuño explained. "In truth, we are telling them what they still lack (to strengthen their cases)."

BIR officials, meanwhile, admit that they lack the experience needed to successfully prosecute tax evasion cases via criminal proceedings, but they refuse to take sole responsibility for the delays.

"I think it's safe to say that the DOJ doesn't have any idea about tax laws," Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said.

Henares dismisses the justice department's assertion that tax authorities are bungling their cases with shoddy preparation. "As a tax lawyer, I would say our evidence is complete. You just have to show that the (suspect) had income that was not reported. That's the best evidence."

Go it alone?

The BIR is so frustrated with the lack of progress at the justice department that some proponents of the RATE program are now considering bypassing the state prosecutor's office altogether.

Henares says there is a provision in the new Internal Revenue Code that allows tax authorities to take cases straight to regional trial courts or the Court of Tax Appeals.

Here's the catch: the provision has never been used, and the BIR is hesitant to blow a case by taking a legal route that may eventually be struck down for a technicality.

"It's now a question of, 'are we willing to take the risk of testing the judicial process?'," she said. "There is a risk there." Tax authorities, in particular, don't want to be accused to "taking a dive" in any tax case by taking an untested legal route.

Even on this aspect, there is disagreement among the BIR leadership. Acting BIR chief Jose Mario Buñag believes tax cases can only prosper with the help of state prosecutors.

"We cannot go (to court) directly," he said. "We cannot be the complainant and the judge at the same time."

Buñag justified the need to channel tax cases through state prosecutors because bringing these complaints directly to court entails "a lot of legal difficulties".

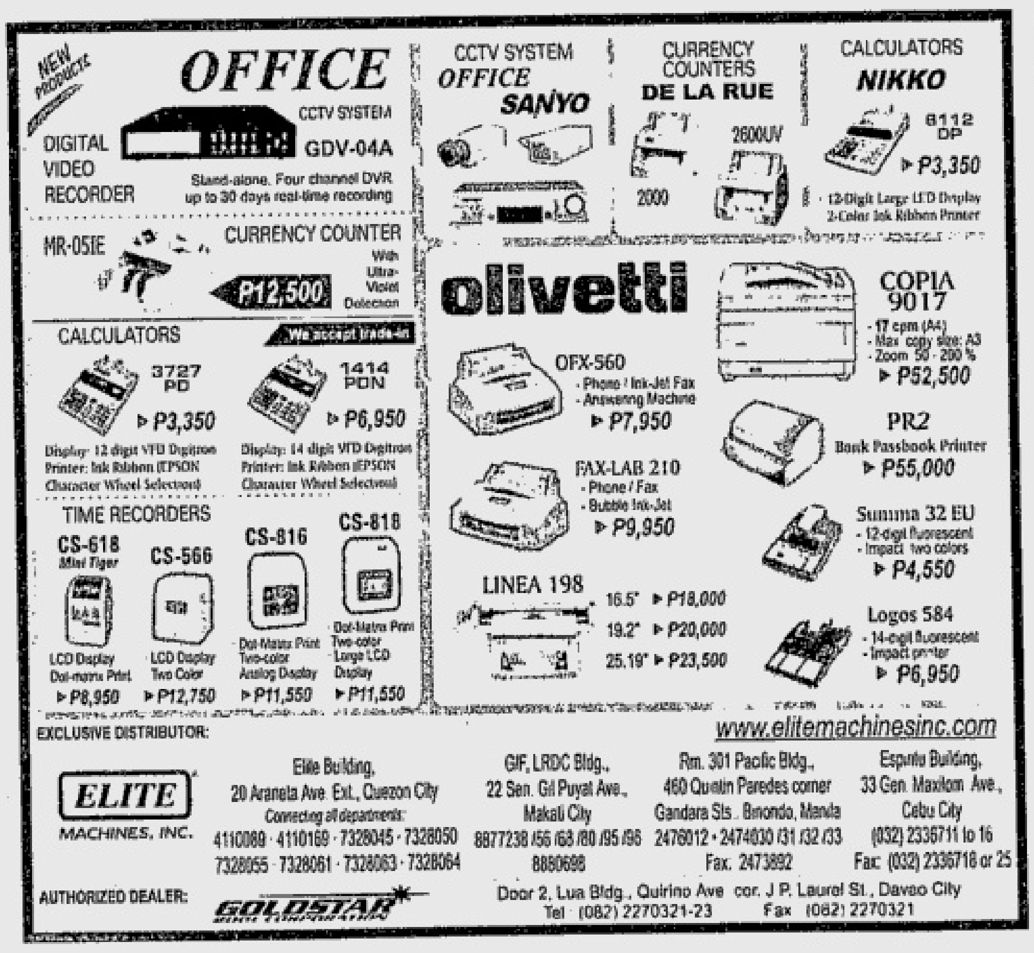
Since March of this year, the BIR has filed 27 cases against suspected tax evaders before the justice department. Only one case has been cleared by Office of the State Prosecutor to be filed with the Court of Tax Appeals.

That means only 3.7 percent of the cases presented by tax authorities under the RATE program are considered airtight by criminal prosecutors' standards.

The rest are languishing in the preliminary investigation stage because the cases made by tax authorities are either weak or lack documentary evidence, Zuño said. In short, officials cannot find "probable cause" that would merit these cases being brought before a judge.

Clearly, issues between the justice and finance departments, and those within the finance department are taking its toll on the RATE program, which was once the government's most effective tax collection booster.

(To be concluded)



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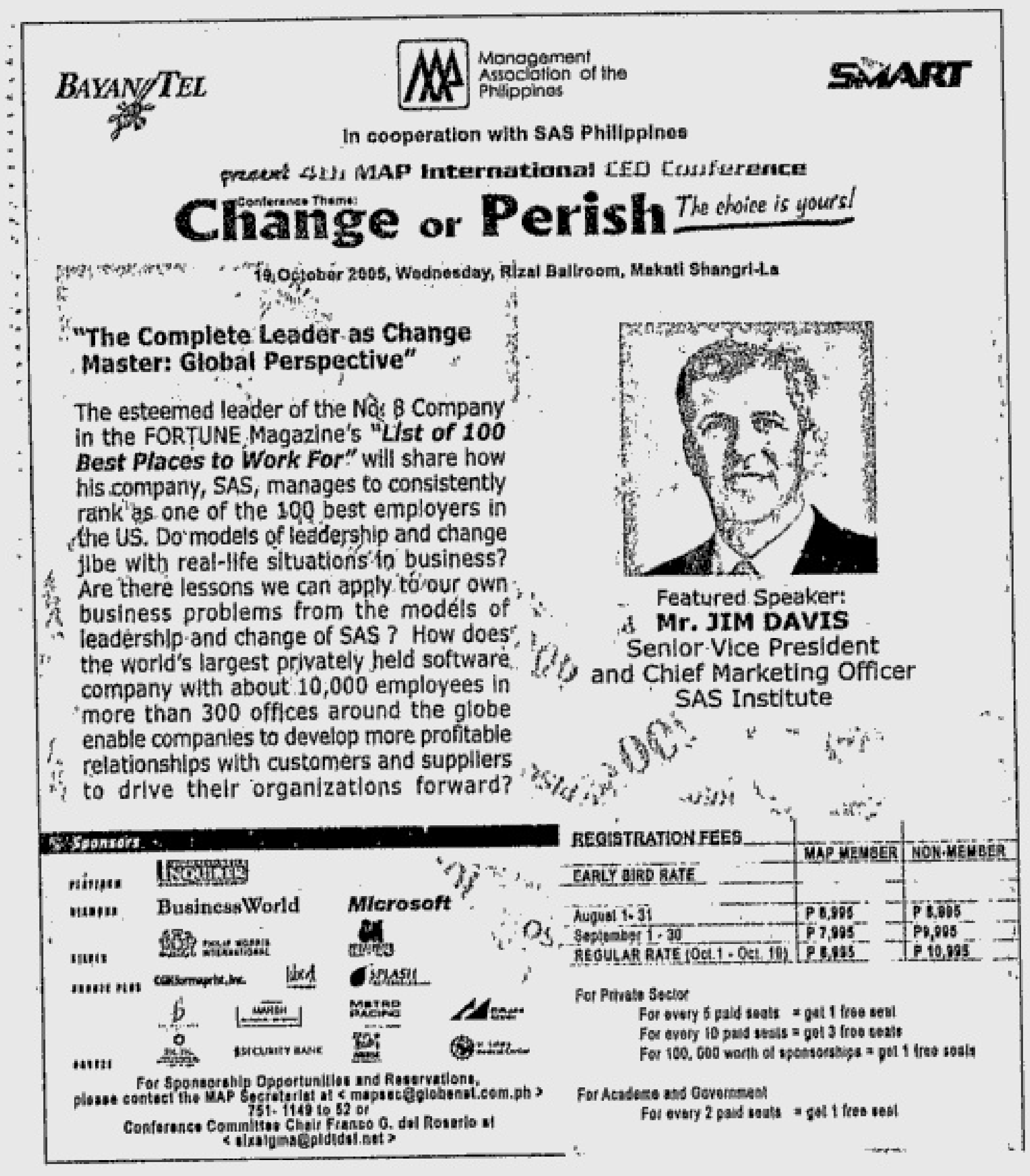

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Treasury bill rates fall

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY bill rates fell across-the-board yesterday, as the highly liquid market scrambled for government securities.

The bellwether 91-day treasury bill rate dropped by 4.3 basis points to 5.589 percent, reversing the slight increase last week. The 182- and 364-day T-bill rates declined by 0.4 and 2 basis points to 7.395 percent and 8.397 percent, respectively.

"Political considerations will always be there, but investors are now getting more focused on the economic situation rather than the political noise," said Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who headed yesterday's T-bill auction.

Tan said the government securities market, composed mostly of banks, showed confidence in the government's fiscal situation, given the huge amount of bids raised by the investors.

All three T-bill tenors were over-subscribed, with total tenders reaching P19.3 billion or higher than the government's debt offering of only P6 billion. Of the total amount, P6.15 billion was accounted for by 91-day T-bills, P6.3 billion by the P182-day notes, and P6.8 billion by the 364-day notes.

Asked when the government would tap the international market again to raise the remaining $850 million worth of foreign borrowing requirements for the year, Tan said the government would still have to wait for "proper timing."

He said one factor that could improve the environment for an international borrowing would be a favorable Supreme Court decision on the Expanded Value-Added Tax law.

Finance officials are hoping the high court would lift the suspension of the VAT law, considered the key revenue-raising measure of the Arroyo administration. This is expected to generate about P84 billion in annual revenue starting next year.

The lifting of the suspension is seen to raise the confidence of foreign and domestic investors in the country's fiscal standing.

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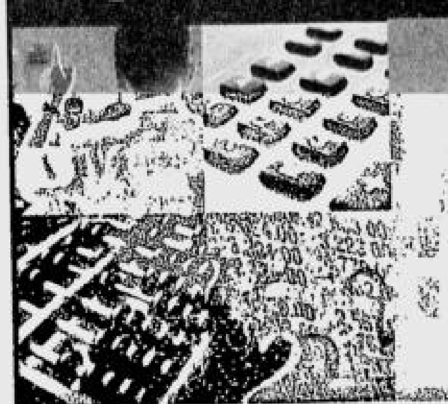

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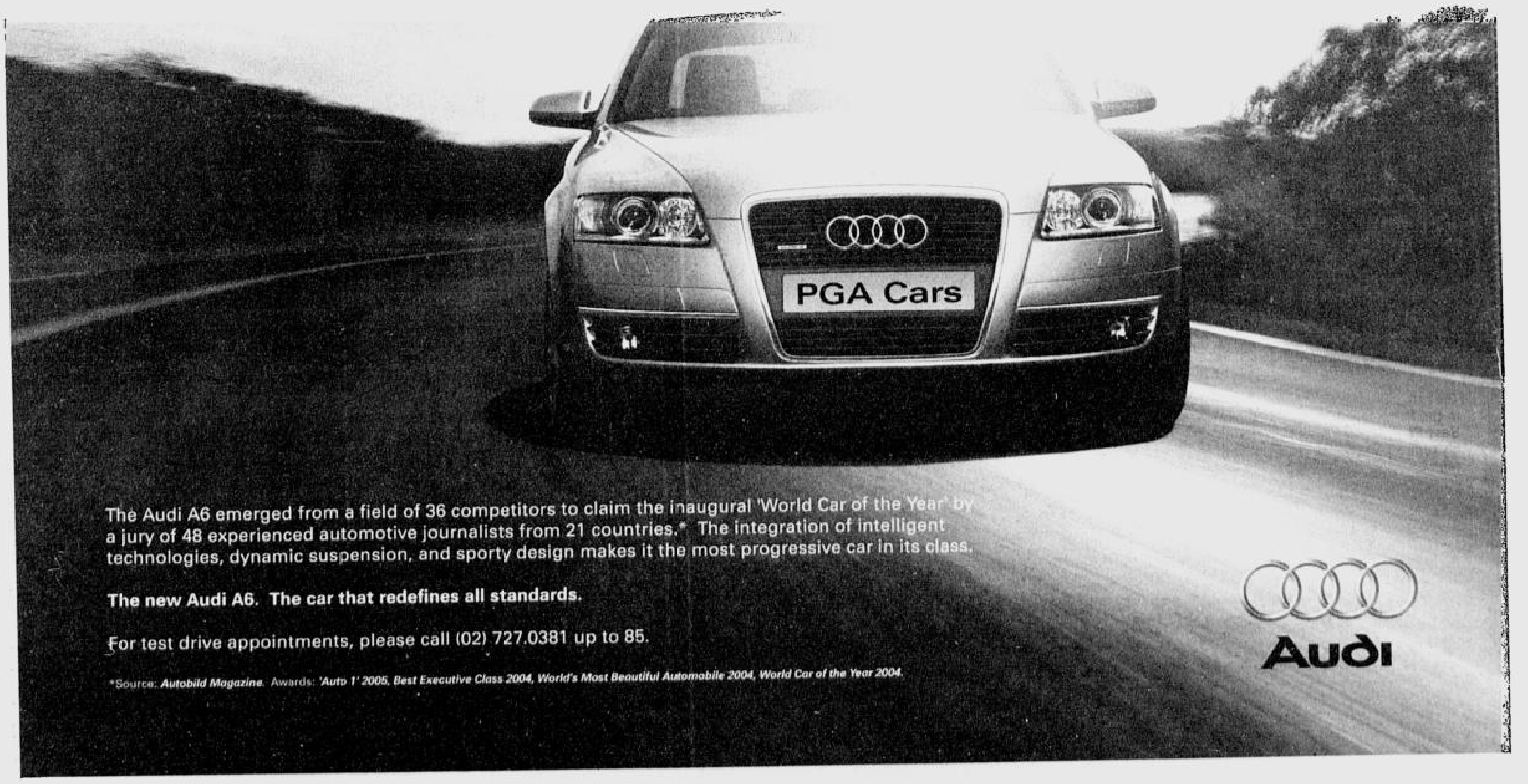

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Market topping out

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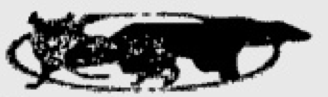


Ron Nathan

WHILE HSBC is giving away TV sets to new credit cardholders, Equitable PCI Bank is giving away its own version of Monopoly.

When you pass GO, you lose all voting rights. The Low Esteem Society meets next Friday at 7 p.m. in the usual place. Will members kindly use the back door?

The bishops made an ambiguous call to the President. On the one hand, they moved forward by telling her that she must be accountable for her actions; on the other hand, they moved sideways, saying that she should not resign.

If you take the mid-point of these directions, you will find that the bishops moved diagonally as usual. FVR is pushing hard for a parliamentary system together with JDV. Can you honestly see JDV playing second FIDEL to RAMOS?

Many Filipinos believe that the Philippines was named after King Philip of Spain. I have just read a book about the voyage of Magellan. It says that he fell in love with the pili nut and named the country the Pilipines. Over the years, it got corrupted as everything here does. It is just as well that he did not like pistachio nuts.

Two golfing buddies were playing on the 3rd hole when one had a stroke and died. His friend put him in the golf cart and continued to the 18th hole. He was furious when the caddy added a stroke to his score.

Here is a story sent in by a reader. A couple had been happily married for 20 years. Every time they made love, the husband insisted on turning off the lights. The wife just thought he was shy but after 20 years, curiosity got the better of her and in the middle of frenzied lovemaking, she turned on the light. To her horror she found that the husband was using a large battery-operated vibrator. "You impotent, cheating b*st*rd," she cried. "How could you fool me all these years? You had better explain that toy." Her husband looked her straight in the eye and said, "I will, if you explain the kids."

* * *

I had to write last week's article immediately after the Sona so I did not really have time to reflect on it. Her statement that "We were about to take off" puzzled me. She said it twice, but I could not fathom how she arrived at that conclusion.

Last year, the economy grew at 6.1 percent. In the first quarter of 2005, GDP only grew by 4.75 percent due to typhoons in November and December. In the second quarter, it grew by 5.1 percent.

The government is targeting 5.3 percent for the year and the IMF is forecasting 4.75 percent. Both figures are well below last year's 6.1 percent, so how could we be on the verge of takeoff?

It took me several hours to figure out that she was referring to the helicopter waiting to take her back to Malacañang.

Although the opposition will continue to produce vast amounts of evidence, I do think there is much chance that she will be impeached. They simply don't have the numbers. They need 79 votes and can only muster 52 so their only hope is to find GARCI.

He has been reportedly seen in Singapore, London, Mongolia, Iceland, the Sahara desert and Divisoria. If you know where he is, write to the Chief of Police. Don't phone, it is too dangerous.

If they ever get the required 79 votes, the Senate will spend one year on the format and another year on the rules. Assuming that they can start by 2008, the opposition will have a hard time trying to convince two-thirds of the Senate to convict her before 2010. So I reckon she will survive her term unless the military intervenes.

The same reasoning leads me to believe that there will be no parliamentary system. To push it through the Senate, they need 18 out of 24 votes, but 14 senators are opposed or unconvinced.

In the United Kingdom, there is no pork. Members of Parliament receive a decent salary plus expenses. Can you expect senators to give up their annual P200 million? Would you? The only way to get it passed is to guarantee P500 million each to all senators and congressmen in a unicameral system. Then they will approve it unanimously.

When making investment decisions, it is best to ignore politics altogether and concentrate on the economy. Finance Secretary Teves and his colleagues have an uphill battle on their hands if they are to bring down and eventually eliminate the budget deficit. A great deal depends on the Supreme Court's decision later this month, and it is difficult to see how a 13-2 majority can be reversed. The judges have to decide whether the VAT is constitutionally sound.

Being highly informed individuals, they know too well the effects of a negative decision. The stock market will fall, the peso will weaken, ADB has threatened to withhold $1.5 billion of loans if reforms are not pursued, and we may be downgraded even further. I don't envy their task.

If a worst case scenario occurs, the government will tax soft drinks and text messages. The latter will play havoc with the telecom promos, which will probably have to be abandoned and it will only raise about P20 billion, not enough to make much difference.

They have to tackle taxation on businessmen and stop smuggling and pirating. Only by getting really tough, can they raise the amounts required.

The 2nd quarter results that came out last week were very good and helped the index rise for the third week in succession. MWC reported profits up 52 percent and predicted that they would exceed last year. AEV announced profits up by 37 percent with all units contributing. BPI has reported a 22-percent increase, MBT a 16-percent improvement and PNB a 700-percent increase from a very low base.

The biggest surprise was MERALCO, which turned a P1.71 billion loss in the 1st quarter into a P1.78 billion profit in the 2nd quarter. The market has not reacted to this even though it looks to be a turnaround situation. The company still has major cash flow problems but the worst may be over. If they get an increase from the Supreme Court in due course, the shares will rebound.

The degree of risk on the PHISIX is very high and last Thursday, I advised subscribers to SELL on the first sign of weakness. Most sold on Friday as the index opened 4 points higher, then fell 9 points before closing unchanged. Yesterday, the index opened 2 points lower and ended 17 points down. So this is the 19th successive signal, which has been absolutely correct and nearly always a day ahead of the turn. Even I am astonished but I follow it without question

A number of important companies will be reporting, including TEL, which dominates the market. After the quarterly results are announced, the market tends to fall and with the uncertainty as to what the Supreme Court will decide, I would rather be out of the market at present.

I would like to say a word about e-mails. My highly efficient secretary deletes all messages containing an attachment, unless from a known contact. She also deletes all messages over 10KB. So please don't waste your time or hers. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com.*

Stocks close 0.87% lower

From page B1

slightly more positive tone of late.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 17.32 points to 1,982.93 after trading between 1,981.46 and 2,002.01 points. Volume was 875 million shares worth P783 million.

The broader all-shares index retreated 8.47 points to 1,192.85.

Losers led gains 50 to 23, with 50 stocks unchanged.

"Investors have turned cautious ahead of more earnings reports, while some have opted to take profits," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

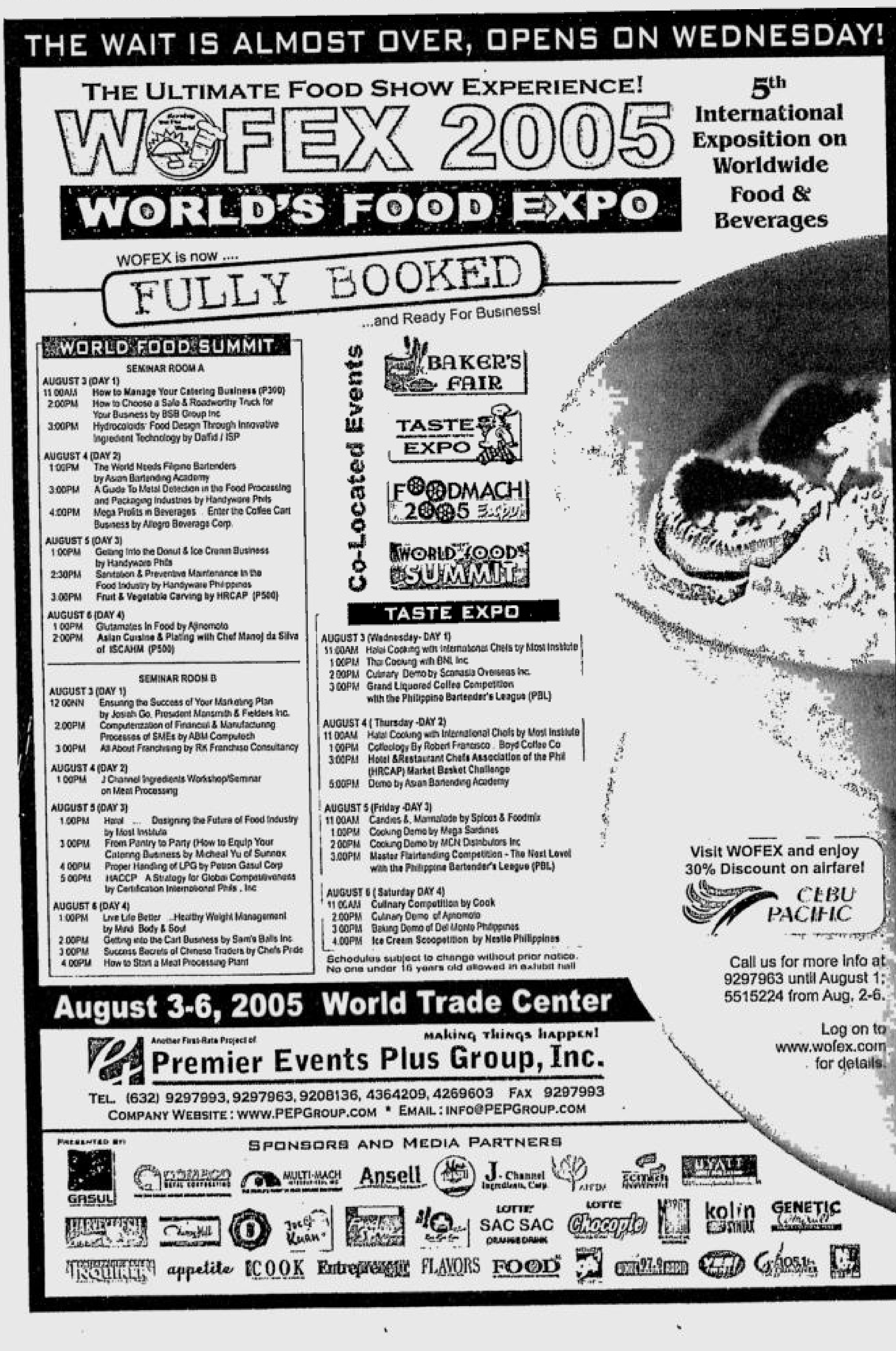
Dealers said some market participants also took to the sidelines until the Supreme Court rules on the constitutionality of a new value-added tax law, the centerpiece of the government's fiscal reform agenda.

The Supreme Court froze the tax measure in July and is expected to issue a ruling this month.

Bank of the Philippine Islands was the most active stock, falling 50 centavos to P50.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone fell P5 to P1,620 while rival Globe Telecom dropped P15 to P825.

Ayala Land slipped 10 centavos to P8.10, while parent Ayala Corp. fell P12.50 to P312.50. *AFP*



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SEMINAR ROOM A

AUGUST 3 (DAY 1)
11:00AM How to Manage Your Catering Business (P300)
2:00PM How to Choose a Safe & Roadworthy Truck for Your Business by BSB Group Inc
3:00PM Hydrocolloids: Food Design Through Innovative Ingredient Technology by Dafid / ISP

AUGUST 4 (DAY 2)
1:00PM The World Needs Filipino Bartenders by Asian Bartending Academy
3:00PM A Guide To Metal Detection in the Food Processing and Packaging Industries by Handyware Phils
4:00PM Mega Profits in Beverages Enter the Coffee Cart Business by Allegro Beverage Corp.

AUGUST 5 (DAY 3)
1:00PM Getting Into the Donut & Ice Cream Business by Handyware Phils
2:30PM Sanitation & Preventive Maintenance in the Food Industry by Handyware Philippines
3:00PM Fruit & Vegetable Carving by HRCAP (P500)

AUGUST 6 (DAY 4)
1:00PM Glutamates In Food by Ajinomoto
2:00PM Asian Cuisine & Plating with Chef Manoj da Silva of ISCAHM (P500)

SEMINAR ROOM B

AUGUST 3 (DAY 1)
12:00NN Ensuring the Success of Your Marketing Plan by Josiah Go, President Mansmith & Fielders Inc.
2:00PM Computerization of Financial & Manufacturing Processes of SMEs by ABM Computech
3:00PM All About Franchising by RK Franchise Consultancy

AUGUST 4 (DAY 2)
1:00PM J Channel Ingredients Workshop/Seminar on Meat Processing

AUGUST 5 (DAY 3)
1:00PM Halal ... Designing the Future of Food Industry by Most Institute
3:00PM From Pantry to Party (How to Equip Your Catering Business by Micheal Yu of Sunnex
4:00PM Proper Handling of LPG by Petron Gasul Corp
5:00PM HACCP A Strategy for Global Competitiveness by Certification International Phils., Inc

AUGUST 6 (DAY 4)
1:00PM Live Life Better ...Healthy Weight Management by Mind Body & Soul
2:00PM Getting into the Cart Business by Sam's Balls Inc
3:00PM Success Secrets of Chinese Traders by Chefs Pride
4:00PM How to Start a Meat Processing Plant

Co-Located Events: BAKER'S FAIR, TASTE EXPO, FOODMACH 2005 Expo, WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

TASTE EXPO

AUGUST 3 (Wednesday- DAY 1)
11:00AM Halal Cooking with International Chefs by Most Institute
1:00PM Thai Cooking with BNL Inc
2:00PM Culinary Demo by Scanasia Overseas Inc.
3:00PM Grand Liquored Coffee Competition with the Philippine Bartender's League (PBL)

AUGUST 4 (Thursday -DAY 2)
11:00AM Halal Cooking with International Chefs by Most Institute
1:00PM Coffeology By Robert Francisco . Boyd Coffee Co
3:00PM Hotel &Restaurant Chefs Association of the Phil (HRCAP) Market Basket Challenge
5:00PM Demo by Asian Bartending Academy

AUGUST 5 (Friday -DAY 3)
11:00AM Candies &. Marmalade by Spices & Foodmix
1:00PM Cooking Demo by Mega Sardines
2:00PM Cooking Demo by MCN Distributors Inc
3:00PM Master Flairtending Competition - The Next Level with the Philippine Bartender's League (PBL)

AUGUST 6 (Saturday DAY 4)
11:00AM Culinary Competition by Cook
2:00PM Culinary Demo of Ajinomoto
3:00PM Baking Demo of Del Monte Philippines
4:00PM Ice Cream Scoopetition by Nestle Philippines

Schedules subject to change without prior notice. No one under 16 years old allowed in exhibit hall

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Inflation

From page B1

and western countries had not led to a shift in peso to dollar assets so far.

"Despite the decline, the Philippines' differential remained the highest in the region," he said. "Therefore, in the context of developments pertaining to the US dollar, the Philippines' interest rate differential may still be adequate and may not induce foreign exchange instability."

For this full year, the BSP sees the inflation rate averaging at 7.9 percent before easing to 7.5 percent next year.

Global credit rating agency Standard & Poor's expects a higher inflation rate of 8.3 percent for the Philippines this year and 7.6 percent next year.

In addition, S&P noted that unemployment remained high at over 11 percent, industrial capacity utilization low and private lending mild which, in turn, made the BSP reluctant to raise interest rates further.

"Nevertheless, past experience has shown that the BSP will prioritize exchange rate stability over economic growth, should it need to choose between the two," S&P said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 1, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	1,141,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	51	49.5	50	3,763,900
China Banking Corp.	770	770	765	765	2,220
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	320,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49	49	49	26,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	27.5	406,000
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	4,600
Philippine Trust Co.	60	60	60	60	800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	5,700
Security Bank Corp.	28.5	29	28	28.5	380,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	1,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2770	2770	2770	2770	390
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13	13	13	32,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.04	1.04	1	1.04	924,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	830	830	820	825	27,400
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	2,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	32,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	723,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1625	1630	1620	1620	90,350
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	51,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	80,600
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	24	23.75	24	33,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	2,195,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.2	2,885,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	8	8	657,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	300,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.1	204,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	31	10,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31	30.5	30.5	152,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	69	70	69	69.5	430,000
San Miguel Corp. B	99.5	100	99.5	100	262,900
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	56,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	30,000,000
Ayala Corp.	325	325	310	312.5	47,460
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.61	0.52	0.58	61,250,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.1	30,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	2,170,000
APC Group Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	17,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	300,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	100,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.08	1.1	5,607,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.215	5,590,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.95	2.75	2.75	7,016,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	89,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.3	7.5	7.2	7.2	1,282,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45	45	44	44	44,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.36	684,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	12,560,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	210,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.54	0.48	0.54	1,350,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	219	217	218	164,810
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	150,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.185	0.185	13,660,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,170,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	2,500,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	12,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.95	430,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6	6	6	6	2,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.88	0.83	0.86	500,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.36	1.38	1,254,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	60,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	450,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13	13	12.75	13	696,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) SerieS U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	24,600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.1	8,852,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	1,010,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.205	6,600,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	6,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	1,190,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	180,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,360,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	3,019,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.18	1.18	1.12	1.12	909,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.22	1.22	1.06	1.14	1,965,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	18,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	116,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	5,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2	2.04	2	2.04	57,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	3,300,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	216,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	370,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29.5	28.5	28.5	232,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	450,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.005	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	201,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	109,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.6	49,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	7,430,000

DISCLOSURES

ANGLO Philippine Holdings Corp. elected as directors Alfredo Ramos, Presentacion Ramos, Augusto Sunico, Patrick Caoile, Maximo Licauco III, Leonardo Arguelles Jr., Christopher Gotanco, Francisco Navarro, Roberto San Jose, Victor Benavidez and Noel Del Castillo.

***

UNIWIDE Holdings Inc. denied that Puregold owner Lucio Co had acquired all 10 Uniwide stores.

***

MACROASIA Corp. elected as directors Washington Sycip, Mariano Tanenglian, Joseph Chua, Jaime Bautista; Lucio Tan Jr., George Sycip, Hans Sy and Stewart Lim.

***

MANILA Electric Co. elected Manuel Lopez as chair and chief executive officer, Felipe Alfonso as vice chair, Jesus Francisco as president and chief operating officer, and Camilo Quiason as corporate secretary and general counsel. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 1, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.824470278	1.000000	56.1620
Japan	Yen	0.00733	0.008891	0.4993
United Kingdom	Pound	1.449584	1.758200	98.7440
Hongkong	Dollar	0.10604	0.128616	7.2233
Switzerland	Franc	0.640167	0.776458	43.6074
Canada	Dollar	0.673752	0.817194	45.8952
Singapore	Dollar	0.495683	0.601214	33.7654
Australia	Dollar	0.625926	0.759186	42.6374
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.18704	2.652661	148.9787
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219853	0.266660	14.9762
Brunei	Dollar	0.494198	0.599413	33.6642
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019829	0.024050	1.3507
UAE	Dirham	0.22448	0.272272	15.2913
Euro	Euro	1	1.212900	68.1189
Argentina	Peso	0.288025	0.349345	19.6199
Brazil	REAL	0.345357	0.418883	23.5253
Denmark	Kroner	0.134058	0.162599	9.1319
India	Rupee	0.018997	0.023041	1.2940
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219859	0.266667	14.9766
Mexico	New Peso	0.077832	0.094402	5.3018
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562548	0.682314	38.3201
South Africa	Rand	0.125347	0.152033	8.5385
Korea	Won	0.000806	0.000977	0.0549
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025911	0.031427	1.7650

Gov't may sell its stake in Landbank

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is looking at selling as much as 49 percent of its shares in state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines to boost its capital and increase support to its priority sectors, including fisheries and agriculture.

"The Land Bank does not have to be 100-percent government-owned," Finance Secretary and former Land Bank president Margarito "Gary" Teves yesterday said during a ceremony marking the bank's remittance of P700 million in dividends to the national government.

Selling part of the government's stake in the bank is one of the measures being studied to increase the bank's capitalization from the current P22 billion to as much as P50 billion, he said.

But Teves said inviting investors in Land Bank would require an amendment of its charter, which currently limits the bank to the use of internal resources in beefing up its capitalization. Teves said the bank wants to increase capital to increase its financial assistance to farmers, fisher folk and micro-enterprises.

He said Land Bank has already prepared a draft bill seeking to amend the bank's charter. The bank is now in the process of lobbying for the draft bill's sponsorship in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"If we have the flexibility, Land Bank can be more inviting to investors," Teves said.

With the plan to sell shares of Land Bank, the institution hopes to become the country's third biggest bank in terms of capital. Currently, Land Bank is at the fifth spot.

Teves said that Land Bank intends to keep its mandate of providing financial support to the fisheries, agriculture and micro-enterprises sectors. For this reason, Land Bank is wooing multilateral or bilateral agencies, whose businesses are not commercial in nature, to invest in it.

Land Bank is eyeing the investment arms of either the World Bank, the Asian Development or the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Aside from tapping investments from the foreign agencies, Teves said, Land Bank is also considering either a merger with another government-owned bank like the Development Bank of the Philippines to boost its capital.

SAIDI'S SCHOOL OF ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Taipan Lucio Tan (right) meets benefactors and faculty members of the Southeast Asian Interdisciplinary Institute (SAIDI) during the inauguration of a building that will house SAIDI's School of Organizational Development in Antipolo City. Tan sank in P14 million to complete the building, where SAIDI hoped to train experts in organizational development, enterprise development, microfinance and instructional technology.

Peso hits 3-week low, but closes at 56.14 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO and local stocks yesterday suffered from a kneejerk reaction to fresh accusations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had a direct hand in rigging last year's presidential elections.

The peso hit 56.24 to $1 during the morning trade, below the 56.20:$1 level at which it had found support in the last three trading sessions. This was shortly after a new witness held a press conference exposing alleged election payoffs.

But the peso recovered in the afternoon and closed at 56.14:$1, down one centavo from Friday's close of 56.13.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed 17.23 points lower to 1,982.93, the first major correction seen in almost three weeks.

"The market was hungry for news, whether good or bad, so the surfacing of a new witness, whether credible or not, was used as a comfortable excuse for investors to take profits," said AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan.

Michael Angelo Zuce, who claimed that he worked under former Malacañang political liaison officer Jose Ma. Rufino, said he saw provincial election supervisors and regional directors receive P30,000 each from former Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged "jueteng" lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda at Ms Arroyo's La Vista home in Quezon City in January last year.

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines, said the new witness initially brought fresh jitters to the market.

"It was, however, ignored afterwards," Hilado said. "I guess his (Zuce) credibility has yet to be established."

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, said Zuce's allegations initially prompted corporate buyers to load up dollars in the morning.

The recovery of the peso in the afternoon trade indicated that it could test 55.85 in the near term barring further political disruptions.

Ravelas said the peso should also benefit from the weakening of the US dollar, which was caused by the lower-than-expected economic growth in the world's largest economy.

At the stock market, Vistan said the market was becoming really ripe for profit-taking but investors were holding off because of good earnings results.

SMC seeks $500-M facility to refinance loan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp., the country's largest food and beverage firm is tapping a consortium of nine banks to arrange a $500-million facility to refinance a bridge loan which SMC had used in buying Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd., sources confirmed yesterday.

San Miguel earlier obtained a $1.1 billion bridge loan to buy National Foods.

Sources said the balance of the amount may be financed through loans to be issued by National Foods in Australia.

According to Bloomberg, the banks that offered the $500-million loan to San Miguel are ABN Amro Holding NV, Barclays Plc, BNP Paribas SA, Calyon, Citigroup Inc., HSBC Holdings Plc, ING Group NV, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and Standard Chartered Plc. The banks were picked to arrange the five-year loan.

The new financing will replace part of the $1.15 billion loan which San Miguel used for the A$1.9-billion ($1.4-billion) takeover of National Foods.

The takeover of National Foods is SMC's largest investment this year. With the acquisition, SMC cemented its hold over the fast growing Asia Pacific food and beverage market.

SMC has gained 96 percent control of National Foods, effectively taking over the company.

In a bidding war that was launched late last year, SMC's A$1.9-billion offer (US$1.5-billion) beat close rival New Zealand's Fonterra Cooperative Group.

RP traders continue to enjoy duty- free access to EU

By Ronnel W. domingo

LOCAL exporters would continue to enjoy duty-free access to the European Union as the European Commission relaxed its rules on the use of obsolete official documents for shipments to the region.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Brussels, Belgium, reported that the EC decided to continue recognizing the old Certificate of Origin Form A still available at the Bureau of Customs in Manila.

Filipino exporters use the COO Form A to avail of duty-free privileges under the European Union's Generalized System of Preferences, which grants lower-than-normal tariffs or completely duty-free access to products from about 180 developing countries and territories.

In general, a GSP is designed to allow industrialized countries to help developing countries to industrialize through grants of reduced tariffs which the latter need not offer in return.

In particular, the EU GSP gives duty-free access to all non-sensitive products and a flat rate reduction of 3.5 percentage points on the duty rates of most other products.

Products that qualify for the tariff reductions under the EU GSP include edible products of animal origin, edible vegetables and nuts, oils and waxes, certain clothing and footwear, glass, and ceramic handicrafts.

Aquino said that based on the latest data from the EU, imports from the Philippines reached a total value of $1.6 billion in 2003.

Globe, Smart turn to unlimited SMS

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNLIMITED voice call promos have come to a dead end—at least for the two major players, Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

The trend now, according to the two giants, is the offer of overnight, unlimited short messaging, or texting, promos for prepaid customers.

The promos, they said, would keep subscribers hooked without straining the network and upsetting postpaid customers.

The National Telecommunications Commission believed that the mobile telcos also suffered from the illegal activities of bypass operators offering call-all-you-can promos.

"[The telcos] are afraid of the Isr (bypass operators)," said NTC director Edgardo Cabarios.

Smart has started offering its text-all-you-can promo. Its 2-day rate goes for P30, while its for 4-day rate goes for P60. The promo started on July 27 and would end on Aug. 26, unless extended.

On July 28, Globe started selling a similar deal. Globe's unlimited, 24-hour texting rate goes for P15.

All that Globe subscribers have to do is to text "nonstop" to 2870. The second-rank player is continuing with its cheaper call and text rate deal called Celebrate.

Smart, meanwhile, scrapped its unlimited call promo because of the burden it had caused the network. Globe said it had long abandoned the eat-all-you-can pricing because it was not sustainable if it wanted to maintain good network quality.

"We don't believe in unsustainable unlimited offerings running for long periods," said Globe assistant vice president Froilan Castelo. "I think this new promo is sustainable because it will not affect network quality."

What is more realistic, according to Castelo, is a cheaper tariff like Celebrate, which slashed call rates. by 60 percent and text charges by half.

Cabarios said the giants noticed an increased bypass activity when they were offering unlimited calls.

These illegal operations usually ride on the network of mobile carriers to facilitate illegal long distance operations by disguising international calls as local calls.

Mindanao copper-gold project on schedule

THE TAMPAKAN copper-gold project in Mindanao is firmly on schedule, according to Indophil Resources in its quarterly report to the Australian Stock Exchange.

Indophil chair Brian Phillips and managing director Tony Robbins said that the focal point of the project at this time—the pre-feasibility study—was conducted on time and on budget. The study will be completed in 2006.

The company has successfully raised the US$25 million to finance this critical phase of the Tampakan project.

"Tampakan is the most advanced among the new major mining projects in the Philippines," Phillips said. "It is an important minerals development project for the Philippines and its study program remains firmly on schedule and on budget. Indophil and its project partners continue to receive solid support from the government and the local community and this has been central to the study program remaining on track."

Indophil, in its quarterly report, confirmed its intention to employ the world's best practices in all its activities. Phillips said that the company and its partners are continually mindful of their shared obligations to community development and responsible environmental management.

After the study is completed, the project proponents will proceed with the feasibility study that it expects will cost another US$35 million. Once the second study confirms that the project is feasible, construction of the mine will proceed with a further investment of US$600 million.

NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF PRUDENTIAL BANK

To All Stockholders of Prudential Bank:

Please be advised that the Bank of the Philippine Islands ("BPI" or the "Buyer"), is offering to purchase from stockholders of Prudential Bank (the "Company") at least 6,574,162 common shares of the Company (the "Shares"), representing 80% of the outstanding common shares of the Company and up to 8,217,702 Shares, representing 100% of the outstanding common shares of the Company for cash at an Offer Price of P 746.4374 per share (the "Tender Offer") under the terms and conditions attached hereto as Annex A ("Terms of the Tender Offer").

In connection with the Tender Offer, the Buyer filed on July 28, 2005, a Tender Offer Statement ("SEC Form 19-1") with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulation Code.

Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, stockholders of the Company may tender all or a portion of their Shares for acceptance and purchase by the Buyer beginning 9:30 a.m. of August 1, 2005 until 12:00 noon of August 26, 2005 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Buyer subject to prior approval of the SEC.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Shares for sale to the Buyer may do so by securing an Instruction to Tender Shares form (the "Instruction Form") from the Company, the Depository, the Transaction Arranger or the PSE Public Information and Assistance Center and submitting a duly accomplished Instruction Form together with: (i) The original copy of stock certificates of the Company duly endorsed (for certificated Shares); (ii) If the stockholder is a corporation, a notarized corporate secretary's certificate setting forth the pertinent resolutions of the tendering stockholder's board of directors or equivalent body authorizing the tender and sale of the Shares and the designated signatories for the purpose including the latter's specimen signature; and (iii) If the stockholder is an individual, a photocopy of a valid identification card with signature to be presented together with the original copy.

The Depository, the PDTC Participant and/or the STA reserve the right to require the tendering stockholder to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the Shares being tendered by the stockholder pursuant to the Offer.

The Shares being tendered for sale to the Buyer **must be received by the Depository in scripless form not later than 12:00 noon of August 26, 2005.** Shares received thereafter or without the required documents may be rejected by the Buyer. To ensure that the Depository receives the Shares in scripless form within the Tender Offer Period, the tendering stockholders should submit the required documents: (a) to the Depository, for certificated Shares, at least 5 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period, or on or before August 19, 2005, to allow for lodgement of the shares with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") before the end of the Tender Offer Period; or (b) to their stockbroker or custodian (the "PDTC Participant"), for Shares lodged with their PDTC Participant, at least 3 trading days before the end of the Tender Offer Period or on or before August 23, 2005, to allow for the electronic transfer of the Shares to the Depository before the end of the Tender Offer Period.

Tendering stockholders may withdraw any Share tendered by sending a written notice of withdrawal to the Depository or the PDTC Participant (as the case may be) together with their copy of the Instruction Form duly conformed and accepted by the Depository or the PDTC Participant any time before the end of the Tender Offer Period. Shares shall be returned in the same form it was received to the PDTC Participant (if previously lodged with the PDTC Participant) or to the tendering stockholder (if previously certificated) within ten (10) trading days from the end of the Tender Offer Period. The cost of returning the Shares shall be borne by the stockholder making the withdrawal.

The Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Buyer for payment on August 29, 2005 (the "Closing Date") subject to the fulfillment of following conditions on or before the Closing Date: (i) the Buyer shall have obtained all corporate, contractual and regulatory approvals, consents and authorizations for the purchase by the Buyer of the Shares; and (ii) Eligible Shares representing at least eighty percent (80%) of the Company's outstanding capital stock or 6,574,162 Shares shall have been delivered to the Depository.

Prior to the commencement of the Tender Offer Period, the Buyer has put the Offer Price due on One Hundred Percent (100%) of the outstanding capital stock of the Company in escrow with the Purchase Price Escrow Agent, Bank of the Philippine Islands - Asset Management and Trust Group.

Subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, the Paying Agent shall make available for pick up from its office, checks in payment for the Shares equal to the total purchase price less stock transaction taxes plus the tendering stockholders' pro rata share of any interest earned on the escrowed funds (net of applicable taxes and escrow fees). Check payments for certificated Shares shall be made in the name of the tendering stockholder for pick-up by the tendering stockholder or his/its duly authorized representative. When collecting payment, the tendering stockholder is required to present the Instruction Form duly conformed and accepted by the Depository together with proper identification documents. His/Its duly authorized representatives shall be required to present an authorization letter from the tendering stockholder. Check payments for Shares lodged with a PDTC Participant shall be made in the name of the PDTC Participant. Beneficial owners are advised to arrange with their PDTC Participant on the manner of collecting payment for their Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Instruction Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1. For queries, please call any of the Company, the Depository or the Transaction Arranger at contact details set forth below. Copies of the Instruction Form and the SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by the stockholders of the Company, free of charge, from the following:

- Prudential Bank
  3/F Prudential Bank Building, 6787 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
  Attention: Ms. Yvette B. Rosete at (632) 812-7558

- BPI Securities Corporation as Depository, Crossing Broker and Paying Agent
  8/F, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  Attention: Ms. Janet D. Amora at (632) 845-5617 or Mr. Jasper M. Jimenez at (632) 816-9190 or 92

- BPI Capital Corporation as Transaction Arranger
  8/F, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
  Attention: Mr. Luis C. Urcia at (632) 816-9102 or Ms. Barbara C. Untalan at (632) 816-9491

- The PSE Public Information and Assistance Center
  G/F PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
  Attention: Ms. Arlene Edades at (632) 688-7601

- PSE website at www.pse.org.ph

By:
Bank of the Philippine Islands

[Original Signed]
Aurelio R. Montinola III
President

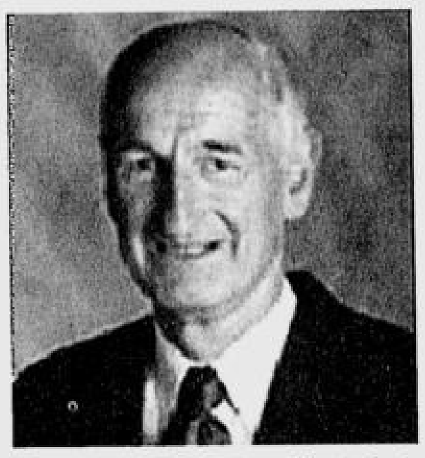
ADVT

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Rotary Districts hold National Conference



ROTARY International president-elect William 'Bill' Boyd.

THE ROTARY Districts 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820 and 3830, together with the RVC Foundation Inc will host the "National Conference on Rotary community Corps (RCC)" today, at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel with the theme "Helping People Help Themselves."

Dubbed as the first-ever Multi-District assembly for both Rotarians and the RCC community members after almost 6 years since the first Convention, this affair aims to gather over 700 delegates from the farthest north in Baguio City to the farthest south in the Bicol area where Rotary is actively present in promoting the RVC principles of volunteerism and self-help among less fortunate Filipinos.

Highlighting this year's conference is the presence of Rotary International President Elect William "Bill" Boyd from New Zealand who will be the event's guest of honor and speaker. Main activities will include handicrafts, backyard industry and other livelihood projects workshops with deep emphasis on fund sourcing, product marketing and financial planning all geared to promote people empowerment, hands-on involvement and self reliance among the various members of the Rotary Community Corps (RCC). A "negosyo" forum displaying and selling of members' products and offering a one-on-one consultation on possible individual or group projects is also a main attraction as the hosts have invited distinguished speakers from the Technological Livelihood and Resource Center (TLRC). Tesda, Cottage Industry Technological Center, Ajinomoto Phils Cooking Plaza, Quedancor Credit Corp, Pagcor, Small Business Guarantee Finance Corp (SB Corp) and the National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF).

The morning session will have IPDG Joel Tinitigan of District 3810, PDG Herminio "Sonny" Coloma of district 3830 and PDG Melito "Binbo" Salazar of District 3780 as plenary speakers on topics relating to Self-help, Fund Development and success stories on RCCs.

The luncheon meeting portion will be a gathering of all the incoming leaders of the 7 participating Districts as their district governors-elect and presidents-elect tackle their own session with the visiting Rotary International president-elect Bill Boyd immediately after a scheduled press conference in the morning with different media representatives.

During the affair, the RVC Foundation will also give awards, for the first time, to outstanding RCCs and individuals who have been instrumental in the organization, success and sustenance of the various RCCs in their Districts. Cash prizes have also been prepared for the best photo exhibits on display during the entire day.

This event continue to showcase the dedication and service to humanity of Rotary International through its over 36,000 Rotary Clubs around the world for over 100 years now since its inception in February 2005.

GMA VISITS TCL/OMNI TV PLANT IN LIIP

During her visit to the TCL/Omni TV plant in LIIP, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the success of the local-foreign partnership between TCL and Omni. With her are (from left): Gov. Ninging Lazaro; Emmanuel 'Cholo' Valencia, business development director of TCL SBU; Joseph Lim, representing AA Commercial (shareholder); Jeff Shi, TCL manager of multi product line; Alex Espiritu, TCL EVP; Abbe Daza, general manager of Omni Logistics; Wu Xiaodong, TCL VP; Stephen Zhang, TCL engineer; Lucky Liu, TCL manager of marketing ad promotion; Liza Li, representative of TCL SBU and Lita Joaquin, representative of Solid Group Inc.

QUANTUM GLOBAL BAGS AWARDS

Harold Dick Ledda (3rd from left), president and chief executive officer of Quantum Global Philippines Inc, receives the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards for X-1R as the most outstanding fuel saving lubricants and Quantum FB Plus as the most outstanding fiber dietary supplement in the market today. Shown are (from left) Felix Lao Jr, chair and awards committee of the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards; international beauty queen Melanie Marquez; and Jose Jesus Roces, president, Asian Pacific Marketing Federation.

AFP-RSBS marks significant milestone in 2004

THE AFP-RSBS attained a net income in 2004 of P224 million. According to Cesar Jayme Jr, president and CEO of RSBS, this represents a 74 percent increase compared to its performance in 2003 when it posted an income figure of P128 million. This achievement likewise caps four successive years of positive bottom lines following the 1998-2000 period of losses triggered by the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

Jayme stated that for its real estate assets, which make up the bulk of the investment portfolio, efforts have been focused at selling them off or undertaking joint ventures in which the partners completely shoulder the development expenses. An example of such joint venture projects are the arrangements entered into with established players in the industry for the properties in Pampanga and Iloilo which in effect will provide RSBS with a steady stream of revenues and cash flows in future years. Similar negotiations are ongoing for the other properties in their portfolio.

Successful debt settlement/restructuring negotiations likewise substantially trimmed down the debt level from P1.8 billion to P290 million resulting in considerable savings.

Furthermore, Jayme said legislative reform discussions have reached the levels of the AFP hierarchy, the Department of National Defense, and the Senate. AFP-RSBS initiated the legislative reform agenda as early as the year 2000 to address limitations in the AFP-RSBS laws that have rendered it virtually impossible for the institution to assume the pension obligation due to the wide mismatch between the contribution and benefit structures. An approved World Bank grant was also tapped to fund the conduct of financial and actuarial studies to be able to solicit expert knowledge and experience.

The Board of Trustees of RSBS has adopted as a strategic priority the institutionalization of corporate governance best practices, commencing with the creation of a Corporate Governance Committee which shall establish and oversee the implementation of a corporate governance improvement program. The program aims to ensure that a culture of good governance pervades the whole organization.

For the retiring soldiers, AFP-RSBS remains steadfast in its commitment to release checks representing the refund of their contributions together with cumulative interest within 24 hours after the submission of complete documentary requirements, thus, providing them with the needed cash while they await the release of their other retirement benefits.

Bits Clips

IE, TQM seminars at PMPC

PANASONIC Manufacturing Philippines Corp (PMPC), maker and distributor of Panasonic brand home appliances, in coordination with the Panasonic Regional Training Center-Singapore, will hold seminars on the following: Industrial Engineering Basic Course (IE) on Aug. 31 to Sept. 2; and Total Quality Management Course (TQM) on Aug. 31 to Sept. 1, both at the HDC Building, PMPC, Taytay, Rizal. The programs are open to PMPC suppliers, as well as other companies seeking to improve their manufacturing competitiveness. For inquiries, contact Angelo Tamayo at 284-2293 or 635-2260 local 2821/2822 or e-mail at angelo.tamayo@ph.panasonic.com.

'Back2Back Xtras' promo

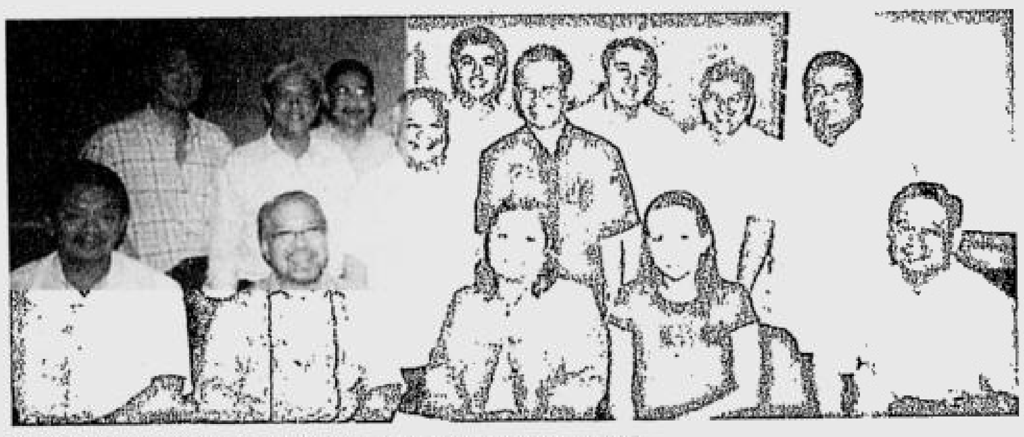
ISUZU Philippines Corp is one such thoughtful giver. In its latest ongoing "Back2Back Xtras" promotional campaign, Isuzu is giving away rewards that would actually be useful and appealing to vehicle buyers. The diesel authority is treating customers to gifts they really want and need. From July 4 to Aug. 31, buyers of selected Crosswind, D-Max and IPV models automatically get free comprehensive insurance and SM gift certificates. Cash or finance-assisted buyers-whether individual, corporate or government accounts-are eligible to avail of the promo's rewards. The SM gift certificates are not convertible to cash and must be claimed from the dealership within 60 days from the purchase date of the vehicle.

Supertrac at Wofex 2005

CATCH Supertrac Motors Corp in the country's biggest gathering of food and beverage companies - the World Food Expo 2005 this coming August 3 to 6, at the World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd Pasay City. Unlike other importer/dealer, Supertrac only distributes safe, road-worthy and emission-tested units, carving a reputable name for itself in the industry as the trusted dealer for top multinational and SME businesses in the country today. For your truck requirements, you can also reach Supertrac Motors at 374-8103, 374-5504, 371-5580 and 374-8095 or visit its showroom at 1131 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Fantastic 4 Meals at BK

BURGER King brings you Fantastic 4 meals to enjoy with new limited edition action figures. Choose 1 toy from among the 6 available designs when you order any of the following: BK Blazing Cheeseburger Supreme, BK Blazing Bacon Cheeseburger, BK Blazing Mushroom Swiss Cheeseburger and BK 2-piece Beef Steak. All meals come with soda drink of your choice. Priced at a low P79, you can collect all the characters: Mr. Fantastic, Invisible Woman, Human Torch, The Thing, Dr. Doom and the Fantastic 4 Clip-on.



MEAT PROCESSORS CALL ON PANGANIBAN

Key officials and members of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc (Pampi) paid a courtesy call on Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban recently to stress their cooperation with the government in helping out strengthen the food security of the country. The meat processors group was led by Felix Tiukinhoy Jr, president; Jerome Ong, vice president; Joyce Alcoreza, secretary; Cezar Cruz Jr, treasurer; Vivian Lim, PRO; Rey Lapid, director; Allan Castro, director; Francisco Buencamino, executive director. Others who joined the courtesy call were Dr. Manny Rocha, Ted Po, Rex Agarrado, Carlo Hizon, Dindo Danao and Josine de Leon.

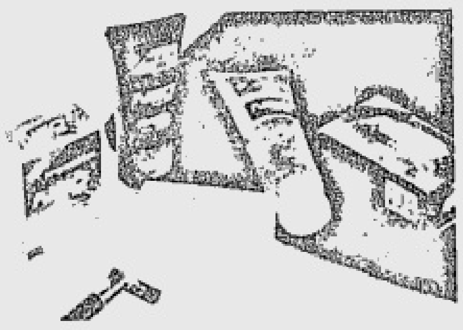
LLDI, FIRST AGRI-DRAGON INDUSTRIES MOA SIGNING

Landco Leisure Development Inc (LLDI) and First Agri-Dragon Industries Inc signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) recently for the development of the 17-hectare property as expansion site for Ponderosa Leisure Farms, located in Silang, Cavite. The MOA was signed by Alfred Xerez-Burgos III, LLDI president and COO; Benedict Tamate, First Agri-Dragon Industries, Inc president (2nd and 3rd from left). Other officers (from left) are : Albert Villa-Real, Leisure Farms sales and marketing director; Norlie Pedernal, LLDI chief finance director; and Jose Leynes, First Agri-Dragon Industries corporate secretary, and Rhodora Sevilla.

Power Plant Mall hosts 2nd Ateneo Art Awards

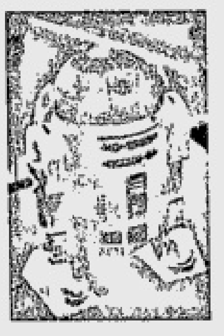
THE ATENEO Art Gallery recently disclosed that they have chosen Power Plant Mall as the venue for the 2nd Ateneo Art Awards. The annual art awards is touted as the Oscar for modern and contemporary art. Ateneo Art Gallery curator, Ramon E.S. Lerma has partnered with Rockwell's VP for retail marketing, JP Masakayan and Power Plant Mall general manager Malou Pineda to give recognition to the innovative, creative minds of the Filipino youth. The 12 artists short-listed for the awards were presented last June 24, at a cocktail reception at the Joya Loft Model Unit in the Power Plant Mall. They are Annie Cabigting, Mariano Ching, Luisito Cordero, Norman Dreo, Rodel Tapaya Garcia, Isa Lorenzo, Jayson Oliveria, Elmer Roslin, Carlo Saavedra, Mac Valdezco, Ronald Ventura and Eric Zamuco. The Ateneo Art Awards grand prize winner will finally be revealed today, at a ceremony at the North Court of the Power Plant Mall. The event will also kick off a showcase of the contenders' artworks entitled Cross Encounters: The 2005 Ateneo Art Awards Exhibition that will run till Aug. 7 at the North Court. Art works from world-renowned artists will also be presented at other areas of the mall. The South Court will hold the White Wash Art Exhibit highlighting paintings of Ang Kiukok, Arturo Luz and Fernando Zobel. The Fine Impressions Art Collection will be staged at the Bridgeway area featuring works of Pablo Picasso. Rockwell continuously supports the arts and hopes for yet another successful tie-up with the Ateneo Art Gallery.

ProductFILES



Exclusively for men

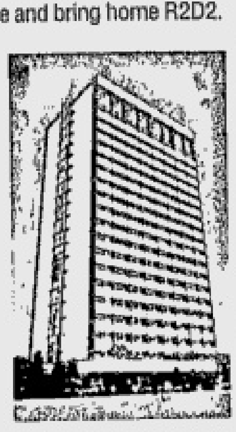
THREE of the first concerns of men: gray hair, dark complexion and odor. Neo presents new products for these concerns. Introducing the first and only papaya soap in the country exclusively made for men - Neo Soap. It has a masculine scent and the effective and proven formulas to lighten the skin and maintain proper moisture. On the other hand, to darken gray hair, use Neo Black Gel. The only black gel in the market formulated to enhance the natural black color of a man's hair. Also available is the Neo Clear Gel. And because smelling good all day is a plus factor to charm every woman, High Altitude for Men is created to give men long, lasting fragrance and signature-inspired scents. High Altitude for Men is available in three varied scents.



The Force is back in Jollibee

THE FORCE is back in Jollibee with the R2D2 Lunch Box offering. For every single receipt food purchase of Jollibee food worth P150, you can avail of the R2D2 Lunch Box at only P199. It's a complete lunch set that comes with a tumbler, fork and spoon, rice container, food container, candy container and tissue holder. Definitely, the R2D2 Lunch Box is the great lunch companion for your kids anywhere especially at school. This is only until Aug. 8, so rush to your nearest Jollibee store and bring home R2D2.

The Mondrian Residences



THE MONDRIAN Residences is a residential condominium located within the heart of Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. It is a low-density project, with only 162 residential units available, and no more than 9 units per floor. The Mondrian is fully titled, as CCT's have been issued for all the units. Interior finishing is now on-going with turn-over expected middle of next year. The Mondrian boasts of spacious units, a prime location and exceptionally attractive pricing and payment terms. Interested parties may contact Joy at (632)807-0111, 809-3612 and 809-3076 or email inquiries@ardendevcorp.com.

Harvey Fresh featured in Wofex

HARVEY Fresh 100 percent juices - all fruit and nothing but the fruit. No sugar added, no preservatives and artificial colorings. Available in carrot, orange, apple, grapefruit, refreshing tropical juice, cholesterol reducing apple and pear and delicious apples and blackcurrant juice. Exclusively distributed by Sermasison Corp. Sermasison Corp joins World Food Expo 2005 wherein Harvey Fresh will be featured. Wofex will be held from Aug. 3 to 6 at the World Trade Center, Manila. Wofex accepts on-line registration at www.wofex.com. For info call Premier Events Plus Group Inc at 435-4790, 920-8136 or 929-7993 or 63.

SCHEDULE of Tindahan ni Pangulong
GLORIA ROLLING STORES

DISTRICT	AREA	DAY	TIME
North District Office			
CALOOCAN			
1	Bgy. 8 (Sapang Saging Tupda, J. Felipe & Salmon)	MON	AM & PM
2	Bgy. 12 (Libis, Talisay)	-do-	-do-
3	Bgy. 14 (Libis, Espina)	-do-	-do-
4	Bgy. 133 (Bagong Barrio)	-do-	AM
5	Bgy. 139 (Bagong Barrio)	-do-	-do-
6	Bgy. 154 (Bagong Barrio)	-do-	-do-
7	Bgy. 138 (Bagong Barrio)	-do-	PM
8	Bgy. 151 (Bagong Barrio)	-do-	-do-
9	Bgy. 160 (Libis Baesa)	-do-	-do-
10	Bgy. 174 (Camarin)	TUES	AM & PM
11	Bgy. 175 (Camarin)	-do-	-do-
12	Bgy. 176 (Ph. 5, 7, 8B & Ph 9, Bagong Silang)	-do-	-do-
13	Bgy. 28 (Landaska & kawal)	-do-	AM
14	Bgy. 49 (4th and 5th Ave. East)	-do-	-do-
15	Bgy. 32 (L. Lupa)	-do-	-do-
16	Bgy. 59 (9th Ave.)	-do-	-do-
17	Bgy. 70 (Baltazar Bukid)	-do-	-do-
18	Bgy. 182 (Pangarap Bungad)	-do-	-do-
19	Bgy. 185 (Malaria)	-do-	-do-
20	Bgy. 29 (Magtanggol	-do-	PM
21	Bgy. 52 (6th and 7th Ave.)	-do-	-do-
22	Bgy. 33 (Aquino 1)	-do-	-do-
23	Bgy. 69 (Stotensberg/Baltazar Bukid)	-do-	-do-
24	Bgy. 105 (Galino)	-do-	-do-
25	Bgy. 183 (Mt. Heights)	-do-	-do-
26	Bgy. 186 (purok 3,4,6 Barracks 6 Tala)	-do-	-do-
27	Bgy. 35 (Sawata Area 1 & 2)	WED	AM & PM
28	Bgy. 177 (Camarin)	-do-	-do-
29	Bgy. 178 (Dalanghita, San Vicente Ferrer)	-do-	-do-
30	Bgy. 180 (Victory Height)	-do-	-do-
31	Bgy. 181 (Pangarap Loob)	-do-	-do-
32	Bgy. 34 (Isla San Juan)	-do-	AM
33	Bgy. 37 (Marulas)	-do-	-do-
34	Bgy. 36 (Casampangan Comp.)	-do-	PM
35	Bgy. 38 (Marulas)	-do-	-do-
36	Bgy. 182 (Pangarap Bungad)	THURS	AM & PM
37	Bgy. 183 (Mt. Heights)	-do-	-do-
38	Bgy. 185 (Malaria)	-do-	-do-
39	Bgy. 49 (4th and 5th Ave. East)	-do-	AM
40	Bgy. 59 (9th Ave.)	-do-	-do-
41	Bgy. 186 (purok 3,4,6 Barracks 6 Tala)	-do-	-do-
42	Bgy. 52 (6th and 7th Ave.)	-do-	PM
43	Bgy. 69 (Stotensberg/Baltazar Bukid)	-do-	-do-
44	Bgy. 73 (PNR Cmpd / DM Cmpd)	FRI	AM & PM
45	Bgy. 187 (Carmelite Bo.)	-do-	-do-
46	Bgy. 188 (Bo. Concepcion, Polo Tala)	-do-	-do-
47	Bgy. 70 (Baltazar Bukid)	-do-	AM
48	Bgy. 118 (bet. 4th & 5th Ave. East)	-do-	-do-
49	Bgy. 120 (bet. 2nd & 3rd Ave.)	-do-	-do-
50	Bgy. 105 (Galino)	-do-	PM
51	Bgy. 119 (bet. 4th & 5th Ave. East)	-do-	-do-
52	Bgy. 128 (2nd Ave.)	-do-	-do-
53	Bgy. Panghulo	MON	AM & PM
54	Bgy. Tonsuya	-do-	AM
55	Bgy. Maysilo	-do-	-do-
56	Bgy. Acacia	-do-	-do-
57	Bgy. Hulong Duhat	-do-	-do-
58	Bgy. Catmon	-do-	PM
59	Bgy. Santulan	-do-	-do-
60	Bgy. Tugatog	-do-	-do-
61	Bgy. Baritan	-do-	-do-
62	Bgy. Concepcion (Sto. Niño Gulayan)	TUES	AM
63	Bgy. Tinajeros	-do-	-do-
64	Bgy. Muzon	-do-	PM
65	Bgy. Potrero	-do-	-do-
66	Bgy. Longos (Pinagsebugan & Purok 8)	WED	AM & PM
67	Bgy. Niugan	-do-	-do-
68	Bgy. Flores	-do-	-do-
69	Bgy. Dampalit	-do-	-do-
70	Bgy. Acacia	THURS	AM & PM
71	Bgy. Tugatog	-do-	-do-
72	Bgy. Tañong	-do-	-do-
73	Bgy. San Agustin	-do-	-do-
74	Bgy. Hulong Duhat	FRI	AM & PM
75	Bgy. Baritan	-do-	-do-
76	Bgy. Bayan-Bayanan	-do-	-do-
77	Bgy. Ibaba	-do-	-do-
NAVOTAS			
78	NBBN	MON	AM & PM
79	Bgy. Bagumbayan North	-do-	AM
80	Bgy. Tanza	-do-	-do-
81	Bgy. Bagumbayan South	-do-	PM
82	Bgy. NBBS	-do-	-do-
83	Bgy. Bangkulasi	TUES	AM
84	Bgy. NBBS	-do-	PM
85	Bgy. San Jose	WED	AM & PM
86	Bgy. Tangos	-do-	-do-
87	Navotas East	-do-	AM
88	Navotas West	-do-	PM
89	Bgy. San Roque	THURS	AM & PM
90	Bgy. Daang Hari	-do-	AM
91	Bgy. Almazan	-do-	PM
92	Bgy. Tanza	FRI	AM & PM
93	NBBS	-do-	-do-
VALENZUELA			
94	Bgy. Arkong Bato	MON	AM
95	Bgy. Balangkas	-do-	-do-
96	Bgy. Coloong	-do-	-do-
97	Bgy. Wawang Polo	-do-	PM
98	Bgy. Tagalag	-do-	-do-
99	Bgy. Bisig	-do-	-do-
100	Bgy. Bignay	TUES	AM & PM
101	Bgy. Gen. T. De Leon (upper & lower Tibagan)	-do-	-do-
102	Bgy. Canumay	-do-	AM
103	Bgy. Viente Reales	-do-	PM
104	Bgy. Karuhatan	WED	AM & PM
105	Bgy. Marulas	-do-	-do-
106	Bgy. Bagbaguin	THURS	AM & PM
107	Bgy. Mapulang Lupa, Purok 4, 5, 6	-do-	-do-
108	Bgy. Ugong	-do-	-do-
109	Bgy. Paso de Blas	-do-	AM
110	Bgy. Parada	-do-	PM
111	Bgy. Malinta	FRI	AM & PM
112	Bgy. Dalandanan	-do-	-do-
113	Bgy. Malanday	-do-	AM
114	Bgy. Isla	-do-	-do-
115	Bgy. Pasolo	-do-	PM
116	Bgy. Palasan	-do-	-do-
Central District Office			
1.	**Commonwealth**		
	- Bgy Commonwealth-Manggahan	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Commonwealth-Litex	M-F	p.m.
2.	**Batasan**		
	- Bgy Batasan Hills, Freedom Park	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Batasan Hills, San Gabriel St	M-F	p.m.
3.	**Bagong Silangan**		
	- Bgy Bagong Silangan- Sitio Veterans	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Bagong Silangan - Area 7	M-F	p.m.
4	**Payatas**		
	- Bgy Payatas A- Jasmin & Upper jasmin	M-F	a.m.
	- BGy Payatas A- Everlasting & adjacent sts	M-F	p.m.
5.	**Botocan**		
	- Bgy Botocan IV Makadyos St	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Botocan Itaas, Area 6	M-F	p.m.
6.	**Pansol**		
	- Bgy Pansol, Plaza St	M-F	a.m.
7.	**Santol**		
	- Bgy Santol Puray St Silencio	M-F	p.m.
8.	**Libis**		
	- Bgy Bagumbayan Manggahan Ext Sapang Bato	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Libis Sitio 1-4	M-F	p.m.
9.	**Cullat**		
	- Bgy Culiat Metro Heights Cmpd	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Culiat- Sitio Mabilog QC	M-F	p.m.
10.	**Balintawak**		
	- Bgy Unang sigaw # 1184 EDSA Balintawak	M-F	a.m.
11	**Balingasa**		
	- Bgy Balingasa @ 224 Sto. Domingo St.	M-F	p.m.
12.	**Kristong Hari**		
	- Bgy Kristong hari, Bgy Hall	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Kristong hari, Bgy Hall	M-F	p.m.
13.	**South Triangle**		
	- Bgy South Triangle - 167 Mother Ignacia Ave.	M-F	a.m.
14.	**Bagong Pag-asa**		
	- Bgy Bagong Pag-asa - Zone 39 Rd 9 cor Rd 11	M-F	p.m.
15.	**Escopa**		
	- Bgy Hall, Escopa I	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Hall, Escopa II	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy Hall, Escopa III	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy Hall, Escopa IV	T-TH-S	p.m.
16.	**Loyola Heights**		
	- 98 Esteban Abada St	M-F	a.m.
17.	**Amparo Dela Costa**		
	- Bgy Hall, Amparo dela costa, Novaliches	M-F	p.m.
18.	**Balingasa**		
	- 224 Sto Domingo St		
19.	**Pag-ibig sa Nayon**		
	- Bgy Hall, Pag-ibig sa Nayon, Balintawak	M-F	p.m.
20.	**UP**		
	- Malambing I	M-F	a.m.
	- Malambing II	M-F	p.m.
21.	**Del Monte**		
	- West Riverside cor Navarete	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Lincoln St & Santiago	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Florencia West	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Manalo West	T-TH-S	p.m.
22.	**Pasong Putik**		
	- North Fairview	M-W-F	a.m.
	- La Mesa Dam	M-W-F	p.m.
23.	**Sta. Lucia**		
	- M Aquino St	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- J Palma St	T-TH-S	p.m.
24.	**Holy Spirit**		
	- Isadora Hills	M-F	a.m.
	- Republic Avenue	M-F	p.m.
25.	**Payatas B**		
	- Empire St	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Group 13	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Phase 1 urban	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Atis Area B	T-TH-S	p.m.
26.	**Mangga**		
	- PACMAC Area	M-W-F	a.m.
27	**Marilag**		
	- 34 Unrubia St	M-W-F	p.m.
28.	**Tandang Sora**		
	- Carmel V & Figueroa	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Apolia St Barimbao & Diamond St	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Figueroa Cmpd	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Diamond St	T-TH-S	p.m.
29.	**Siena**		
	- 65 & 61 Linaw St	M-W-F	a.m.
30.	**Sto. Domingo**		
	- Maria Clara, Calamba-Blak na Bato & ROTC Hunters	M-W-F	p.m.
31.	**Masambong**		
	- Tokyokan St	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Matiaibo St, Inaman St & Amutan St	T-TH-S	p.m.
32.	**Capri**		
	- Area I & II	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Area III & IV	M-W-F	p.m.
33.	**Quirino 2C**		
	- Kamias Ext	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bignay St & Kamias Ext	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Pajo St & Bignay St	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Kamias Ext	T-TH-S	p.m.
34.	**Bayanihan**		
	- 183/199 JP Rizal St	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- 185/173 Katipunan Ave & 549/552 B Serrano Ave	T-TH-S	p.m.
35.	**San Vicente**		
	- Alley I Pook II	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Alley II Pook III	M-W-F	p.m.
36.	**San Antonio**		
	- Madrigal State Lot 5, 86 Santiago	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- 75/79 San Antonio	T-TH-S	p.m.
37.	**Kaligayahan**		
	- Frankville II Subd/ Bo Binogsok	M-W-F	a.m.
38.	**Silangan**		
	- 95 E. Garcia St	M-W-F	p.m.
39.	**E. Rodriguez**		
	- 15th Avenue	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- 139 E. Garcia St	T-TH-S	p.m.
40.	**North Fairview**		
	- Tullahan	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Hall, Fairview	M-W-F	p.m.
41.	**San Bartolome**		
	- Doña Tomasa Riverside	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- California Riverside	T-TH-S	p.m.
42.	**East Kamias**		
	- K-5 St # 1,2,3	M-W-F	a.m.
	- At the back of Precint 9	M-W-F	p.m.
43.	**Pinyahan**		
	- NIA Site Urban Poor	M-W-F	a.m.
	- East Triangle Urban Poor	M-W-F	p.m.
44.	**Tatalon**	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Kitanlad St cor Agno Ext	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Kaliraya		
45.	**Santol**		
	- Santol St	M	a.m.
	- Bayani St	M	p.m.
	- Silencio St	W	a.m.
	- Baloy St		
	- Butig St	F	a.m.
	- G. Araneta Ave	F	p.m.
46.	**Krus na Ligas**		
	- Sitio Libis	T-TH-S	a.m.
47.	**San Isidro Galas**		
	- Kabote	T-TH-S	p.m.
48.	**Teacher's Village**		
	- Malingap cor kalayaan St	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Mahiyain St	M-W-F	p.m.
	- 53 Magiting St	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- 123 Maginhawa St	T-TH-S	p.m.
MANILA			
49.	**Sampaloc**		
	- Bgy 456 Felina St	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 559 Luzon Avenue	M-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 598 Lao St Balic-Balic	M-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 575 Mindoro St		M-F
a.m.			
	- Bgy 578 Domingo Santalgo St	M-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 583 Doña Maria	M-F	p.m.
50.	**San Miguel**		
	- Bgy 648 Muslim Community San Miguel	M-F	a.m.
51.	**Pandacan**		
	- Bgy 836 Peter Paul Cmpd	M-F	p.m.
52.	**Sta. Mesa**		
	- By 633 Zone 63 Quintina St Sta. Mesa	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 634 Valencia St PUP Cmpd	M-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 628 Zone 63 JH Panganiban NDC Cmpd	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 630 Zone 63 Anonas St	T-TH-S	p.m.
53.	**Quiapo**		
	- Bgy 384 Zone 39 -24 Basan St. & underside of Quinta Mkt	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 385 Zone 39 -Fraternal, Napomuceno	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 391 Zone 40 -Bilibid Viejo	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 393 Zone 40 -532 Int Quezon Blvd	T-TH-S	p.m.
54.	**San Andres**		
	- Bgy 770 Zone 84 oro B San Andres Bukid	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 774 Zone 84 Dayang St San Andres	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 793 Zone 87 PNR San Andres	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 800 Zone 87 PNR san Andres	T-TH-S	p.m.
55.	**Tondo**		
	- Bgy 30 Zone 3 R-10 Mabuhay	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 39 Zone 3 Tuazon cor Mabuhay R-10	M-F	p.m.
	- Smokey Mountain	M-F	a.m.
	- Baseco Cmpd	M-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 46 Zone 4 Menu	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 58 Zone 5 Fajardo	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 69 Zone 6 Madrid Extension	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 70 Zone 6 Asuncion	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 200 Zone 17 Hermosa St	M-F	a.m.
	- Bgy Severino Reyes St	M-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 223 Zone 21 New Antipolo, Tayabas	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 224 Zone 21 New Antipolo, Batangas	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 217 Zone 20 G. New Antipolo St	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 218 Zone 20 Int. 4 Antipolo	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 223 Zone 21 new Antipolo Tayabas	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 224 Zone 21 New Antipolo Batangas	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 227 Zone 21 New Antipolo	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 228 Zone 21 New Antipolo Batangas	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 43 Zone 3 Sto. Niño Kagitingan	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 44 Zone 3 Mabuhay	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 30 Zone 2 R-10 Mabuhay Tondo	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 39 Zone 3R-10 Mabuhay St	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 162 Zone 14 Along Dagupan Ext	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 164 Zone 14 Along Dagupan EXt	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 179 Zone 16 Benita, J. Lukban	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 180 Zone 16 Raod 1, R. Fernandez	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 182 Pag-asa St J. Cunanan	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 186 Zone 16 Hermosa	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 188 Zone 17 A.C. Herrera	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 189 Zone 17 A. Cecilio St	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 60 Zone 5 Galmalian, Prudencio	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 61 Zone 6 Lecheros, Prudencio	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 65 Zone 6 Panday Pira	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 66 Zone 6 Coral	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 72 Zone 6 Masinop	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 73 Zone 6 Concha	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 77 Zone 77 Baltazar St	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 85 Zone 7 F. Varona	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 128 Zone 10 Kalakal	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 129 Zone 10 Rodriguez Playa	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 134 Zone 12 Mirasol, Moderna	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 135 Zone 12 Ampioco	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 149 Zone 13 Juan Luna, Lets go St	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 155 Zone 14 Raxabago	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 156 Zone 14 G. Perfecto, Dagupan Ext	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 160 Zone 14 Raxabago, Estero de Kabulusan	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 223 Zone 21 New Antipolo, Tayabas	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 225 Zone 21 Almeda, Tayuman	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 227 Zone 21 New Antipolo	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 250 Zone 23 Along Estero de Magalena	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 259 Zone 23 Jose Abad Santos	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 260 Zone 24 Luzon, Lope de vega, CM Recto	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 187 Zone 17 P. Del Rosario	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 195 Zone 17 J. Trinidad	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 275 Zone 25 Lavazares Del Pan	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 276 Zone 25 Peñarubia Del Pan	T-TH-S	p.m.
56.	**Sta. Ana**		
	- Bgy 905 Zone 100 Dike St Punta	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 890 Zone 98 Old Panaderos	M-W-F	p.m.
57.	**Sta. Cruz**		
	- Bgy 255 zone 23 Sra de guia, Alvarez, Quiricada, Sunog Apog	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 256 Zone 23 Tayuman	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 260 Zone 24 Luzon, Lope de Vega, CM Recto	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 261 Bambang	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 262 Zone 24 Along Estero de Magdalena	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 264 Zone 24 parallel to A Rivera	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 265 Zone 24 Along Estero de Magdalena	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 310 Zone 31 Oroquita/LRT Telecom	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 312 Zone 31 Oroquieta/Lope de vega	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 334 Zone 33 Quiricada	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 335 Zone 33 Anacleto/Makata	T-TH-S	p.m.
	- Bgy 351 Zone 35 Pista	M-W-F	a.m.
	- Bgy 352 Zone 35 Pista	M-W-F	p.m.
	- Bgy 348 Zone 35 Antipolo	T-TH-S	a.m.
	- Bgy 349 Zone 37 Antipolo	T-TH-S	p.m.
South District Office			
LAS PIÑAS			
1	Daniel Fajardo	M-W-F	AM - PM
2	Almanza II / Ilaya	-do-	-do-
3	Manuyo II	-do-	-do-
4	Pulang Lupa II	-do-	-do-
5	BF International	-do-	-do-
6	Pamplona II / Pamplona III	-do-	-do-
7	Pilar Village	-do-	-do-
8	Almanza II	-do-	-do-
9	Zapote	-do-	-do-
10	CAA	-do-	-do-
11	BF International	T-TH-S	-do-
12	Pamplona II / Pamplona III	-do-	-do-
13	Manuyo II	-do-	-do-
14	Pulang Lupa II	-do-	-do-
15	Talon 2	-do-	-do-
16	Talon 3	-do-	-do-
17	BF International / CAA	-do-	-do-
18	E. Aldana St.	-do-	-do-
MUNTINLUPA			
1	Bayanan	M-W-F	AM - PM
2	Putatan	-do-	-do-
3	Poblacion	-do-	-do-
4	Tunasan	-do-	-do-
5	Bayanan	T-TH-S	-do-
6	Putatan	-do-	-do-
7	Cupang	-do-	-do-
8	Alabang	-do-	-do-
9	Poblacion	-do-	-do-
10	Tunasan	-do-	-do-
11	Sucat	-do-	-do-
12	Buli	-do-	-do-
MANDALUYONG			
1	Malamig	M-W-F	AM - PM
2	Mauway	-do-	-do-
3	Mabini J. Rizal	-do-	-do-
4	Addition Hills	-do-	-do-
5	Barangka Drive	-do-	-do-
6	Hulo	-do-	-do-
7	Daang Bakal	-do-	-do-
8	Highway Hills	-do-	-do-
9	Plainview	-do-	-do-
10	Pleasant Hills	-do-	-do-
11	Daang Bakal	T-TH-S	AM - PM
12	Highway Hills	-do-	-do-
13	Malamig	-do-	-do-
14	Mauway	-do-	-do-
15	Mabini J. Rizal	-do-	-do-
16	Addition Hills	-do-	-do-
17	Barangka Drive	-do-	-do-
18	Hulo	-do-	-do-
19	Plainview	-do-	-do-
20	Pleasant Hills	-do-	-do-
MAKATI CITY			
1	Palanan	M-W-F	AM - PM
2	Bangkal	-do-	-do-
3	Valenzuela	-do-	-do-
4	Singkamas	-do-	-do-
5	Cembo / West Rembo	-do-	-do-
6	Tejeros	-do-	-do-
7	Palanan	T-TH-S	AM - PM
8	Bangkal	-do-	-do-
9	Valenzuela	-do-	-do-
10	Singkamas	-do-	-do-
11	Guadalupe Viejo	-do-	-do-
12	Cembo	-do-	-do-
PASAY CITY			
1	Bgy. #67	M-W-F	AM - PM
2	Bgy. #65	-do-	-do-
3	Bgy. #133 Zone 13	-do-	-do-
4	Bgy. #130 Zone 13	-do-	-do-
5	Bgy. #30 Zone 5 -133	-do-	-do-
6	Bgy. #131	-do-	-do-
7	Malibay	-do-	-do-
8	Bgy. #137	-do-	-do-
9	Villamor Air Base	-do-	-do-
10	Libertad	-do-	-do-
11	Bgy. #106 to 130	-do-	-do-
12	Bgy. #80 to 85	-do-	-do-
13	Bgy. #165	-do-	-do-
14	Bgy. #178	-do-	-do-
15	F.B. Harrison	-do-	-do-
16	Bgy. #145 Zone 16	-do-	-do-
17	Maricaban	-do-	-do-
18	Bgy. #30 Zone 5 -133	T-TH-S	AM - PM
19	Bgy. #131	-do-	-do-
20	Bgy. #67	-do-	-do-
21	Bgy. #65	-do-	-do-
22	Pildera II	-do-	-do-
23	Bgy. #134 Zone 13	-do-	-do-
24	Bgy. #137, 138 & 143	-do-	-do-
25	Bgy. #178 to 182	-do-	-do-
26	Bgy. #133 Zone 13	-do-	-do-
27	Bgy. #130 Zone 13	-do-	-do-
TAGUIG CITY			
1	Sta. Ana	M-W-F	AM - PM
2	Tuktukan	-do-	-do-
3	Wawa	-do-	-do-
4	Hagonoy	-do-	-do-
5	Ligid Tipas	-do-	-do-
6	Ibayo Tipas	-do-	-do-
7	Signal Village	-do-	-do-
8	Western Bicutan	-do-	-do-
9	Upper Bicutan	-do-	-do-
10	Bambang	-do-	-do-
11	Ususan	-do-	-do-
12	Bagong Tanyag	-do-	-do-
13	Calzada	-do-	-do-
14	Palingon	-do-	-do-
15	Lower Bicutan	-do-	-do-
16	Maharlika	-do-	-do-
17	Ligid Tipas	T-TH-S	AM - PM
18	Ibayo Tipas	-do-	-do-
19	Calzada	-do-	-do-
20	Palingon	-do-	-do-
21	Wawa	-do-	-do-
22	Hagonoy	-do-	-do-
23	Bambang	-do-	-do-
24	Ususan	-do-	-do-
25	Signal Village	-do-	-do-
26	Western Bicutan	-do-	-do-
27	Lower Bicutan	-do-	-do-
28	Maharlika Village	-do-	-do-
29	Tuktukan	-do-	-do-
30	Sta. Ana	-do-	-do-
31	Camp Bagong Diwa	-do-	-do-
32	Bagumbayan	-do-	-do-
33	Bagong Tanyag	-do-	-do-
PARAÑAQUE CITY			
1	Sto. Niño	M-W-F	AM - PM
2	La Huerta	-do-	-do-
3	Baclaran	-do-	-do-
4	Tambo	-do-	-do-
5	Sun Valley	-do-	-do-
6	Moonwalk	-do-	-do-
7	Vitalez	-do-	-do-
8	San Martin de Porres	-do-	-do-
9	Merville	-do-	-do-
10	San Dionisio	-do-	-do-
11	San Antonio	-do-	-do-
12	San Isidro	-do-	-do-
13	Marcelo Green	-do-	-do-
14	Sun Valley	T-TH-S	AM - PM
15	San Martin de Porres	-do-	-do-
16	San Dionisio	-do-	-do-
17	San Antonio	-do-	-do-
18	Baclaran	-do-	-do-
19	Tambo	-do-	-do-
20	Sto. Niño	-do-	-do-
21	La Huerta	-do-	-do-
22	Don Galo	-do-	-do-
23	Merville	-do-	-do-
24	Moonwalk	-do-	-do-
25	Bgy. Don Bosco	-do-	-do-
PATEROS			
1	Sta. Ana	M-W-F	AM - PM
2	Martirez	-do-	-do-
3	San Roque	-do-	-do-
4	Aguho	-do-	-do-
5	Sto. Rosario Kanluran	-do-	-do-
6	Sto. Rosario Silangan	-do-	-do-
7	Sto. Rosario Kanluran	T-TH-S	AM - PM
8	Sto. Rosario Silangan	-do-	-do-
9	Sta. Ana	-do-	-do-
10	Martirez	-do-	-do-
11	San Roque	-do-	-do-
12	Aguho	-do-	-do-
Cavite Provincial Office	**CAVITE CITY**		
1	Bgy. 36, 36-A, 37, 37-A	MON	AM
2	Bgy. 47, 48, 49 & 60	-do-	-do-
3	Bgy. 6, 7, 8 & 10	-do-	-do-
GMA			
1	Bgy Olaes, Kua, Malia & Salud	MON	AM
2	Bgy. Memije, Tirona, Dacon & Maderan	-do-	-do-
3	Bgy. San Gabriel, Catmag, Cruz & Teniente Tiago	THURS	-do-
DASMARIÑAS			
1	Bgy Sta. Fe, Sta. Lucia, Luzviminda & San Nicolas	MON	AM
2	Bgy Langkaan 1 & 2, Ibaba & Greenbreeze Subd.	-do-	-do-
3	Bgy. Paliparan 1 & 2, Emmanuel II	WED	AM
4	Bgy. Sta. Cristina I & II, San Andres I & II	FRI	AM
NAIC			
1	Bgy. Tramo Estacion, Timalan Balsahan	MON	AM
2	Bgy. Palanque 1, 2 & 3 & Halang	-do-	-do-
BACOOR			
1	Bgy Molino I, II, III & San Nicolas	TUES	AM
2	Bgy. Sinegwelasan, Aniban, Talaba & Gawaran Ext.	-do-	-do-
CARMONA			
1	Bgy. Milagrosa, Lantic, Mabuhay & Maduya	TUES	AM
TANZA			
1	Bgy. Punta, Bagtas, Paradahan & Tres Cruses	TUES	AM
2	Bgy. Capipisa, Calibuyo, Julugan & Amaya	FRI	AM
3	Bgy. Biga, Mulawin, Daang Amaya & Santol	-do-	-do-
ALFONSO			
1	Bgy Kaytitinga, Matagbak, Sinaliw & Marahan	TUES	AM
2	Bgy Esperanza, Manggas, Sikat & Luksuhin	-do-	-do-
ROSARIO			
1	Bgy Sapa 1, Muzon 1 & 3	WED	AM
2	Bgy. Tramo, Ligtong, Muzon III & Magdalo	-do-	-do-
GEN. TRIAS			
1	Bgy. Santiago, Pasong Camachile, Sunnybrooke & Sta. Clara	WED	AM
AMADEO			
1	Bgy. Minantok East & West, Maymangga & Talon	WED	AM
KAWIT			
1	Bgy. Samala, Pag-asa, Tabon, Gahak	THURS	AM
2	Bgy. Marulas, Tramo, Binakayan & Pulborista	-do-	-do-
IMUS			
1	Bgy. Buhay na Tubig, Pasong Buaya 1 & 2 & Bahayang Pag-asa	TUES	AM
2	Bgy. Palico, Sitio Pulo, Anabu II-C	THURS	-do-
3	Bgy. Bucandala I & II, Tahimik St. & Real	-do-	-do-
MENDEZ			
1	Bgy. Asis, Galicia	THURS	AM
NOVELETA			
1	Bgy. Salcedo I & II, San Rafael III & IV	FRI	AM
2	Bgy Magdiwang, San Antonio 1, Bgy. San Antonio 2	-do-	-do-
3	Bgy. San Jose 1 & 2 & Bgy. San Juan 1 & 2	-do-	-do-
SILANG			
1	Bgy. Narra 1 & 2, Banaba & Anahaw	FRI	AM
2	Bgy. Acacia, Yakpil, Ipil 1 & 2, Bulihan	-do-	-do-
INDANG			
1	Bgy. Lumampong Balagbag, Daine 1 & 2 & Tambong Balagbag	WED	AM
East District Office			
MARIKINA			
1	Bgy. Nangka	M-W-F	AM
2	Bgy. Parang	-do-	-do-
3	Marikina Heights	-do-	PM
4	Bgy. Concepcion Uno	-do-	-do-
5	Nangka, Balubad Resettlement	T-TH	AM
6	Tañong	-do-	-do-
7	Sto. Niño	-do-	PM
8	Malanday	-do-	-do-
9	Barangka	-do-	-do-
10	Industrial Valley	-do-	-do-
RIZAL			
PILILLA			
1	Quisao	M-W-F	AM
2	Malaya	-do-	PM
3	Niogan	-do-	-do-
4	Halayhayin	T-TH	AM
5	Bagumbayan	-do-	PM
6	Manggahan	-do-	-do-
MORONG			
1	San Guillermo	T-TH	AM
2	San Pedro	-do-	-do-
3	Maybangcal	-do-	PM
4	Lagundi	-do-	-do-
5	Bombongan	-do-	-do-
6	San Juan	-do-	-do-
TANAY			
1	Tabing-ilog	M-W-F	AM
2	Mag-ampon	-do-	-do-
3	Pinagkamaligan	-do-	PM
4	Tandang Kutyo	-do-	-do-
5	Kaybuto	T-TH	AM
6	Cayabu	-do-	-do-
7	Tinukan	-do-	-do-
8	Mamuyao	-do-	-do-
9	Plaza Aldea	-do-	PM
10	San Isidro	-do-	-do-
11	Sampaloc	-do-	-do-
12	Sto. Niño	-do-	-do-
13	Sta. Ines	-do-	-do-
14	San Andres	-do-	-do-
15	Asin-asin, Daraitan	-do-	-do-
CARDONA			
1	Dalig	M-W-F	AM
2	Bgy. Calahan	-do-	-do-
3	Looc	-do-	PM
4	Del Remedio	-do-	-do-
5	Bgy. Dalig	-do-	-do-
6	Calahan	T-TH	AM
7	San Roque	-do-	PM
8	Patunhay	-do-	-do-
ANGONO			
1	Mahabang Parang	M-W-F	AM
2	Poblacion Ibaba	-do-	PM
3	Poblacion Itaas	-do-	-do-
4	Kalayaan	T-TH	AM
5	San Vicente	-do-	PM
6	Sto Niño	-do-	-do-
BINANGONAN			
1	Bgy Pag-asa	M-W-F	AM
2	Tagpos	-do-	-do-
3	Libis	-do-	-do-
4	Layunan	-do-	-do-
5	Tayuman	-do-	PM
6	Pantok	-do-	-do-
7	Lunsad	-do-	-do-
8	Calumpang	-do-	-do-
9	Bilibiran	T-TH	AM
10	Palangoy	-do-	PM
11	Darangan	-do-	-do-
12	Mambog	-do-	-do-
TERESA			
1	May-Iba	M-W-F	AM
2	San Roque	-do-	-do-
3	San Gabriel	-do-	PM
4	Dulumbayan	-do-	-do-
5	Dalig	T-TH	AM
6	Dulumbayan	-do-	PM
7	Prinza	-do-	-do-
BARAS			
1	Pinugay	M-W-F	AM
2	Bgy Mabini	-do-	-do-
3	Bgy San Jose	-do-	PM
4	Bgy San Juan	-do-	-do-
5	San Jose	T-TH	AM
6	San Miguel	-do-	PM
7	San Juan	-do-	-do-
CAINTA			
1	San Andres, Floodway	M-W-F	AM
2	San Isidro	-do-	PM
3	Bgy San Juan, Floodway	T-TH	AM
4	Sta. Rosa	-do-	PM
SAN MATEO			
1	Silangan	T-TH	AM
2	Guiod Malaya	-do-	PM
3	Banaba	-do-	PM
4	Pintong Bukawe	-do-	AM - PM
5	Malanday Gravel Pit	M-W-F	AM
6	Gitnang Bayan	-do-	PM
TAYTAY			
1	San Isidro	M-W-F	AM
2	San Juan	-do-	PM
3	PNP Hilltop	T-TH	AM
4	Dolores	-do-	-do-
5	Bgy Sta. Ana	-do-	PM
6	Erap Housing	-do-	-do-
7	Muzon	-do-	-do-
8	Dolores	-do-	AM - PM
JALA-JALA			
1	Bayugo	T-TH	AM
2	Bagumbong	-do-	PM
3	Sipsipin	-do-	-do-
4	Punta	-do-	-do-
RODRIGUEZ			
1	San Isidro	T-TH	AM
2	San Rafael	-do-	-do-
3	San Jose	-do-	PM
4	Kasiglahan Vill., San Jose	-do-	-do-
PASIG			
1	Dela Paz	M-W-F	AM
2	Manggahan	-do-	-do-
3	Bgy Rosario	-do-	-do-
4	Bgy Nagpayong	-do-	-do-
5	Bgy Kalawaan	-do-	-do-
6	Caniogan	-do-	PM
7	Santolan	-do-	-do-
8	Bgy Maybunga	-do-	-do-
9	Jenny's Rosario	T-TH	AM
10	Sto. Tomas	-do-	-do-
11	Pineda	-do-	-do-
12	Maybunga	-do-	PM
13	Bgy Sta. Lucia	-do-	-do-
14	Sta. Cruz	-do-	-do-
15	San Miguel	-do-	-do-
16	Bagong-Ilog	-do-	-do-
17	Ugong	-do-	-do-
ANTIPOLO			
1	Cupang	M-W-F	AM
2	San Jose, Kaysakat	-do-	-do-
3	Bagong Nayon 1	-do-	-do-
4	Kaysakat, San Jose	-do-	-do-
5	Kalawis, San Jose	-do-	-do-
6	San Isidro, San Jose	-do-	-do-
7	San Juan	-do-	PM
8	Mayamot - Villa Ynares	-do-	-do-
9	Calawis	-do-	-do-
10	Bagong Nayon 2	-do-	-do-
11	Paenaan	-do-	-do-
12	Boso-Boso, San Jose	-do-	-do-
13	Inarawan	T-TH	AM
14	San Jose, Bgy. San Jose	-do-	-do-
15	Bgy Sta. Cruz	-do-	-do-
16	Bgy Dela Paz	-do-	-do-
17	San Luis	-do-	PM
18	San Isidro	-do-	-do-
19	Tanza II, San Jose	-do-	-do-
20	Mayamot	-do-	-do-
21	Bgy Dalig	-do-	PM
22	Mambugan	-do-	AM - PM

For suggestions, inquiries or complaints, please
TEXT NFA @ 0917-6210927

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF DEPUTIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN COTABATO CITY, MAGUINDANAO AND OF REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO DECLARE HOLIDAYS
x-----------------x

Chairman	Benjamin S. **ABALOS**
Commissioner	Rufino S.B. **JAVIER**
Commissioner	Mehol K. **SADAIN**
Commissioner	Resurreccion Z. **Borra**
Commissioner	Florentino A. **TUASON, Jr.**

Promulgated : 30 July 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7559

WHEREAS, it is constitutionally mandated that the Commission on Elections shall enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an election;

WHEREAS, Section 2(4), Article IX-C of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the Commission on Elections has the power and function to deputize, with the concurrence of the President, law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the government for the exclusive purpose of ensuring free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections;

WHEREAS, Section 2(4), Article IX-C does not contemplate the deputation of government instrumentalities for the purpose of conducting elections in a particular locality only but rather it embraces all electoral exercises whether it be national, local or ARMM elections;

WHEREAS, reports from the COMELEC officials assigned in the ARMM reveals the inconvenience, and precarious situation and insufficiency of counting and canvassing venues in Maguindanao, except Cotabato City which is considered a neutral ground, accessible, secured and well-equipped with facilities necessary for the conduct of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, the Commission **RESOLVES,** as it hereby **RESOLVES, the following:**

1). To **DEPUTIZE** the Department of Education and its City Superintendent and all government agencies, national and local, in Cotabato City;

2). As determined by the Commissioner-In-Charge of Maguindanao, to **DESIGNATE** public school buildings or other government buildings or premises in Cotabato City as counting and canvassing venues for the 2005 ARMM Elections.

The Commission further **RESOLVES** to **REQUEST** her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to **DECLARE:**

1. **August 8, 2005,** as special non-working day in the entire ARMM Region;
2. **August 8-9, 2005,** as special non-working days in all public schools in Cotabato City and all schools outside of the ARMM Region, duly designated by the Commission as counting and/or canvassing venues for the aforesaid elections.

ALL COMELEC Resolutions relative hereto are hereby adopted as integral part of this Resolution, whenever practicable, in suppletory character.

This resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution.

Let the Office of the Executive Director implement this resolution with dispatch.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

REFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – August 2, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF LOSS

The public is hereby notified that one (1) pad of Official Receipt bearing the inclusive serial numbers 6867051-6867100 was lost in the Office of the Election Officer of Balatan, Camarines Sur. In view thereof, these Official Receipts were declared invalid and any transaction using the above official receipt shall not be considered official, and the government, particularly the Commission on Elections shall not be bound by any use thereof.

The public is therefore earnestly requested to immediately report to the nearest local office of the Commission on Elections and the National Treasury any information regarding the issuance and unlawful use of the aforesaid official receipts.

26 July 2005.

(Sgd.) **PIO JOSE S. JOSON**
Executive Director

(PDI–July 29 & Aug. 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road Pasay City, Metro Manila

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, **MANUEL C. SAN JOSE,** Corporate Secretary of the Manila International Airport Authority, do hereby certify that, at the 254th Regular Board Meeting dated 15 July 2005, the MIAA Board passed the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-033

"**RESOLVED, That,** the authority of Management to increase the Domestic Passenger Terminal Fee for all departing passengers as follows:

TERMINAL	FROM	TO
1. NAIA Terminal 2	Php 100.00	Php 200.00
2. Domestic Terminal	Php 100.00	Php 200.00

be approved, as it is hereby approved, subject to existing rules and regulations".

"**RESOLVED, FURTHER,** That, said increase shall be effective fifteen (15) days after its publication in newspaper of general circulation".

That, the foregoing Resolution is still in full force and effect, and has not been repealed, amended, or modified as of this date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed and affixed the seal of the MIAA to this Secretary's Certificate this 27th day of July 2005 in Pasay, Metro Manila.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL C. SAN JOSE**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–August 2 & 9, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila
EN BANC

IN THE MATTER OF ACCREDITATION AS CITIZENS' ARM OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IN THE PROVINCES OF MAGUINDANAO, LANAO DEL SUR, BASILAN, SULU, AND TAWI-TAWI FOR THE AUGUST 8, 2005 ELECTIONS AT THE AUTONOMOUS REGION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO.

SPP NO. 05-004

CITIZENS COALITION FOR THE ARMM ELECTIONS (CCAE),
Petitioner
x- - - - - - - - - - x

ORDER

Acting on the verified petition of "CITIZENS COALITION FOR THE ARMM ELECTIONS (CCAE)" filed on July 20, 2005 for accreditation as citizens' arm of the Commission on Elections in connection with the August 8, 2005 ARMM Elections, pursuant to Section 4, Rule 33 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure, petitioner is hereby ordered to cause the publication of herein petition, together with this order in a newspaper of general circulation at its own expense.

Let this case be set for hearing on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, at the Session Hall of the Commission, 8th Floor, Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros, Manila.

SO ORDERED.

Given this 26th day of July 2005, Manila, Philippines.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

(Sgd.) BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF ACCREDITATION AS CITIZENS' ARM OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IN THE PROVINCES OF MAGUINDANAO, LANAO DEL SUR, BASILAN, SULU, AND TAWI-TAWI FOR THE AUGUST 8, 2005 ELECTIONS AT THE AUTONOMOUS REGION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO.

SPP NO. 05-004

CITIZENS COALITION FOR THE ARMM ELECTIONS (CCAE),
Petitioner
x- - - - - - - - - - x

PETITION

PETITIONER, Citizens Coalition for the ARMM Elections (CCAE), most respectfully states that:

1. Petitioner is a coalition of non-governmental and peoples organizations based in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) whose with principal office at 2F Caesar Arcade, Bonifacio St Cotabato City.
2. Petitioner was founded on 14 June 2005 at Cotabato City by the following organizations.
   a. Sindaw Ko Kalilintad, a non-profit, non-stock corporation duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
   b. Maranao People Development Center, a non-profit, non-stock corporation duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
   c. ___________, a non-profit, non-stock corporation duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
3. The coalition is formalized by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the member organizations, a copy of which is attached hereto as Annex "A";
4. The principal objective of the petitioner as a coalition is to form a citizens' arm that will engage in Voter Education and Election Day Monitoring for the attainment of honest, clean, orderly, and fair elections.
5. At present petitioner, through its member organizations has seven thousand one hundred twenty eight (7,128) members spread over the whole of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Please refer to attached list of members;
6. The governing body of the petitioner is its Executive Committee composed of six (6) members, namely:
   1. Chairman - Romie M. Guialel
   2. Vice Chairman - Salic Ibrahim
   3. Secretary General - Noradin Manalao
   4. Treasurer - Hamid Bayao
   5. Auditor - Arlene Aming
   6. Spokesperson - Jolly Lais
7. Consistent with its objectives of Voter Education and Election Monitoring and its demonstrated capacity to promote public interest, petitioner is desirous of assisting the Commission on Elections in the performance of its functions and activities as mandated by the Constitution and by law, as a citizens' arm of the Commission for the August 8, 2005 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), particularly in the provinces of Magundanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi,
8. Particularly, petitioner seeks to be accredited as an Election Monitoring organization, with specific authorities...
9. The petitioner, or any of its members.
   a. Is NOT supporting any candidate, political party, organization or coalition of political parties, in the ARMM region where it seeks accreditation;
   b. Has the capability to undertake a coordinated operation and activity to assist the Commission;
   c. Shall to submit itself to the direct and immediate control and supervision and comply with the orders of the Commission in the performance of its specific functions and activities provided by law, and such other functions and activities which the Commission may assign;
   d. Shall be strictly remain non-partisan and impartial during the registration and election periods,
   e. Is NOT supported by or under the influence of any foreign government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities; or of any foreigner, whether natural or juridical person;
   f. Shall not solicit or receive, directly or indirectly, any contribution or aid of whatever form or nature from any foreign government, or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or from any foreigner, a natural or juridical person;
   g. Shall not seek to achieve its objectives, goals or programs through violence or other unlawful means, nor aim to propagate any ideology opposed to the principles of a republican and democratic government; and
   h. Undertakes to police its ranks and prevent infiltration by persons or groups of persons who may, directly or indirectly, destroy its character of non-partisanship and impartially.

PRAYER

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, petitioner respectfully prays that it be accredited as a Citizens' Arm of Commission on Elections for the August 8, 2005 elections in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi as an Election Monitoring organization. Accordingly, petitioner prays that it be allowed access to polling places, witness all the phases of the election and take notes thereon, report incidences of irregularities and violence.

Quezon City, Philippines, 14 July 2005.

Citizens Coalition for the ARMM Elections (CCAE)
2F Caesar Arcade, Bonifacio Street, Cotabato City
Contact No. 0916-3893661

By

(Sgd.) ROMIE M. GUIALEL
Chairman
Citizens Coalition for the ARMM Elections

VERIFICATION and CERTIFICATION UNDER OATH
OF NON-FORUM SHOPPING
(Pursuant to Section 5, Rule 8 of the Rules of Court)

I, ROMIE M. GUIALEL, Filipino, of legal age and a resident of Datu Siang St., Cotabato City after having sworn in accordance with law, do hereby depose and say that:

1. I am the Chairman of the Citizens Coalition for the ARMM Elections, the petitioner in the above entitled petition;
2. By the authority granted me by the Citizens Coalition for the ARMM Elections I caused the preparation of the foregoing Petition;
3. I have read and understood all the statements contained therein and the same are true and correct of my own knowledge.
4. I also certify that the annexes thereto are genuine and authentic document;
5. By the same authority granted me, I certify under oath that the Citizens Coalition for the ARMM Elections has not commenced any action involving the same issues as that raised in the foregoing Petition in any other court, tribunal, or quasi judicial agency and, to the best of my knowledge, no such other action or claim is pending therein; and
6. If I should thereafter learn that same or similar action or claim has been filed or is pending before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any other tribunal or agency, I undertake to report that fact, and the status thereof, within five (5) days therefrom to the Commission

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 19th day of July 2005, affiant exhibited to me his/her Community Tax Certificate Number 10457851 issued at Matanog, Maguindanao on 11 January 2004

NOTARY PUBLIC

Doc. No.	347
Page No.	70
Book No.	LVI
Series of 2005	

(Sgd.) ATTY. DONATO MANGUIAT
Notary Public
Until Dec. 31, 2005
IBP No. 618305 1-4-2005 MLA IV
PTR No. A-601898 1-4-2005, Q.C
Roll No. 34845

(PDI - Aug. 2, 2005)

DBP remits P1-B cash dividend to NG

STATE-OWNED Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has started remitting P1 billion to the national government represeting the Bank's cash dividend for 2005.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Reynaldo G. David said that the remittance will be made in five tranches of P200 million from July 18 to 27.

David said, "We have already remitted the first two installments totaling P400 million to the Bureau of the Treasury last July 18 and 20. The cash dividend is a reflection of the Bank's favorable financial performance and a preview of better things to come for the rest of the year."

He added that DBP continued to perform the delicate balancing act of accomplishing its development mandate while maintaining its financial stability. "The first half of year 2005 attested to the resiliency and strength of the Bank; we posted a substantial increase in income despite rather more difficult circumstances compared to the previous year," David said.

DBP posted a net income after tax of P1.54 billion for the first semester of 2005, or 71 percent higher than the P900 million declared during the same period last year. The amount represent 170 percent of the Bank's target for the semester.

Information technology management seminar

IMPERIAL Consulting, Inc. in partnership with American Management Association, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the American Chamber bring you Information Technology Project Management on August 22-24, at the Makati Shangri-La. Master all the elements and challenges that go into being a top-notch project manager. As an information systems project manager, your job has evolved from applications development to business systems integration. At this introductory seminar, you'll discover the tools and techniques that will help you optimize the Systems Development Life Cycle processes so that you can bring your projects online more effectively, more quickly and on budget. You'll learn how to accelerate development and compress design time-and how to use capability and maturity models so that you can assess where your IT. processes currently are. This course is intended for vice presidents, directors and managers of IT, IT project managers and team leaders, programmers/analysts, systems analysts, project office staff members, as well as those who mange IT projects but are not necessarily IT experts. For more information, call 8451324 or 7596680 or email to jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph or visit our website at www.imperialconsulting.com.ph

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

Memorandum Circular
Number 2005-024

Subject: **MANDATORY DISPLAY OF FARE MATRIX AND PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE THEREOF**

It has come to the attention of this Board that up to this time there are still a number of operators who have not applied for the authority to charge the new fare adjustments and are already collecting the same from the riding public. There have also been reports that some operators are using and displaying fake Fare Matrices to the disadvantage and inconvenience of the riding public. Such acts are manifest violations of the terms and conditions embodied in the resolutions granting the new fare adjustments.

It is a well-established principle that in the grant of a Certificate of Public Convenience, the paramount consideration is always public convenience. It is the duty of this Board to serve and protect public interest. In so doing, this Board continually formulates and implements the appropriate and beneficial measures for the riding public, the drivers, and the operators.

In view thereof and with the implementation of the Fare Rate Adjustment for Public Utility Jitneys, and Airconditioned and Non-Airconditioned Public Utility Buses so as to protect the riding public from unreasonable and excessive fare charges and to identify the *"colorum operators"* thereby protecting the legitimate operators and drivers from *"colorum"* operations, the following operators mentioned hereunder are hereby required to apply and secure the Fare Matrices for their units on or before the deadline provided to avoid apprehension:

Type of Service	Deadline to Apply and Secure FM	Start of Apprehension
1. Metro Manila Aircon And Non-Aircon PUB	31 August 2005	15 September 2005
2. PUJ Nationwide	31 August 2005	15 September 2005
3. Provincial Non-Aircon And Metro Manila Aircon PUB	31 August 2005	15 September 2005

Accordingly, any operator found violating the above provisions shall be subject to the following penalties:

No Fare Matrix Displayed/Photocopied Fare Matrix Displayed

a) First Offense - Php 500.00
b) Second Offense - Php1,000.00
c) Third Offense - Cancellation of Franchise

Fake Fare Matrix Displayed

a) First Offense - PhP5,000.00 and Thirty (30) days Suspension of Franchise
b) Second Offense - Cancellation of Franchise

The Law Enforcement Service of the Land Transportation Office is hereby directed to apprehend Public Utility Jitneys, Metro Manila Aircon and Non-Airconditioned Public Utility Buses, and Provincial Non-Airconditioned Public Utility Buses with no original fare matrices found and displayed in the vehicles. Photocopied matrix is allowed provided the original of which must be presented when demanded for comparison and validation. Enforces are also directed to surrender all confiscated plates to the Legal Division of this Board for proper processing and disposition.

This Memorandum Circular supersedes any and all issuances inconsistent herewith, and takes effect fifteen (15) days following the filling of three (3) copies hereof with the UP Law Center, pursuant to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 11, dated 09 October 1992.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines. AUG. 01, 2005

MARIA ELENA H. BAUTISTA
Chairperson

FELIX S. RACADIO
Board Member

GERARDO A. PINILI
Board Member

(PDI - Aug. 2, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Center, Merrit Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines MCPO Box 2102 Tel No. 893-6001/1320

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

INSTALLATION OF SOIL NAIL ASSEMBLIES AND APPLICATION OF SHOTCRETE ON THE SLOPE OF TOWER 7 FOUNDATION IN LGPF-MALITBOG FCRS SECTOR EDC05-130

The Approved Budget is P10,810,430.00 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 100 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o F.T. Tolibas) starting **August 2, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos One Thousand (P1,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **August 16, 2005, 1:30 P.M.** at Pre-Bid Room, 1st Flr., Bldg. 5, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Site inspection will be on August 12, 2005 at the Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Ormoc City.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, not later than **2:00 p.m.** on **August 31, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality, therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(PDI – August 2, 2005)

BAC CHAIRMAN

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
NORSAMELCO
Brgy Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
MOBILE: (0917) 3619744 • E-mail: Norsamelco@yahoo.com • FAX (055) 251-8163

INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of line under the Rural Electofication Program

Interested parties are hereby invited to a PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE and SEALED BIDDING for supply of hereunder mention project:

Project	Construction of distribution line for 9 barangays
Location	NORSAMELCO coverage area
Contract	Supply of Materials / Labor
Amount	Php 5.1M
Pre-Bid Conference	August 8, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Norsamelco main office
Opening of Bids	August 19, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Norsamelco main office

Bid forms will be issued uon payment of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) non refundable after a Pre-Bid conference.

Only qualified bidders who were present during the pre-qualification conference will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

Opening of bids will be on August 15, 2005. Bid Security equivalent must accompany sealed bid to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

The Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NORSAMELCO) hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein, and to accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to NORSAMELCO.

(Sgd.) HENRY C. BANJAWAN
Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) SALVADOR G. HERNANDEZ
General Manager

(PDI – August 2, 3 & 4, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Psoriasis Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. wishes to inform the general public that the draw for the "Raffle for a Cause" for the benefit of indigent psoriatic patients in Mindanao which was originally scheduled on August 15, 2005 has been moved to December 28, 2005.

The raffle draw date will be held at the Out-Patient Services, Department of Dermatology, Davao Medical Center.

Carlos R. Pacheco, M.D.,
President
Psoriasis Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.

(PDI – August 2, 2005)

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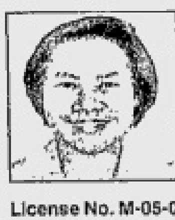
by FE M. MILLAN of JOBCREST MGMT



The public is hereby notified that **JOBCREST MGMT INC. a SEC** registered corporation under **Reg. No. CS200302343**, with its office at Unit H, 3rd Floor, CVA Building National Road, Putatan, Muntinlupa City, is authorized to operate as a private and placement agency under **PRPA** License No. M-05-00-158 from 26 July 2005 to 25 July 2007. **JOBCREST** is officially represented by the chief operating officer, **Ms. FE M. MILLAN**, whose picture is shown herein.
(PDI - Aug. 2, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT
Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of AH CHIN NG who died on August 31, 2003 in Baguio City was settled by his heirs as per Extrajudicial Settlement entered as Document Number 282, Page Number 57, Book No. XI, Series of 2003 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Mia Joy O. Oallares-Cawed.
(PDI–July 19, 26 & Aug 2, 2005)

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Our Dearly Beloved
Papa

ROQUITO GARCIA MEDINA

of Candelaria, Zambales

Peacefully joined our Lord
on July 31, 2005 at age of 70

His wife **Des**; loving children **Wallace, Michelle & Dong** and **Katrina**; Grandchildren **Niki**, **Chello**, **Ena** and **Mio**; Brother and sister **Bert Medina** and **Lourdes Pascual**; nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 1 & 2 Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Cremation will take place on Sunday, August 7, 2005 after 4:00 p.m. Mass at Loyola Marikina Crematorium.

> **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."**
> John 3:16

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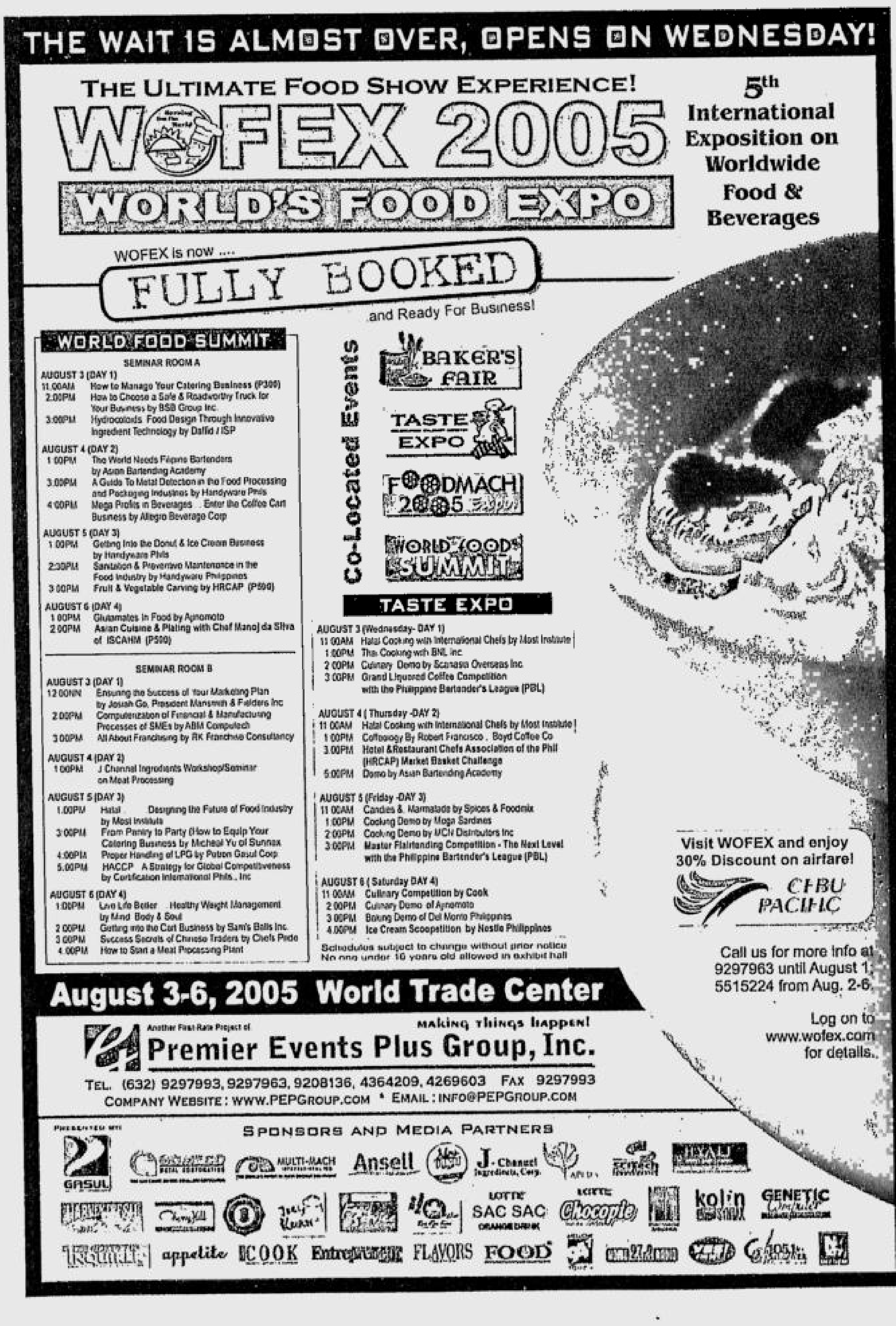
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SEMINAR ROOM A

AUGUST 3 (DAY 1)
11:00AM How to Manage Your Catering Business (P300)
2:00PM How to Choose a Safe & Roadworthy Truck for Your Business by BSB Group Inc.
3:00PM Hydrocolloids Food Design Through Innovative Ingredient Technology by Dafid / ISP

AUGUST 4 (DAY 2)
1:00PM The World Needs Filipino Bartenders by Asian Bartending Academy
3:00PM A Guide To Metal Detection in the Food Processing and Packaging Industries by Handyware Phils
4:00PM Mega Profits in Beverages . Enter the Coffee Cart Business by Allegro Beverage Corp

AUGUST 5 (DAY 3)
1:00PM Getting Into the Donut & Ice Cream Business by Handyware Phils
2:30PM Sanitation & Preventive Maintenance in the Food Industry by Handyware Philippines
3:00PM Fruit & Vegetable Carving by HRCAP (P500)

AUGUST 6 (DAY 4)
1:00PM Glutamates in Food by Ajinomoto
2:00PM Asian Cuisine & Plating with Chef Manoj da Silva of ISCAHM (P500)

SEMINAR ROOM B

AUGUST 3 (DAY 1)
12:00NN Ensuring the Success of Your Marketing Plan by Josiah Go, President Mansmith & Fielders Inc
2:00PM Computerization of Financial & Manufacturing Processes of SMEs by ABM Computech
3:00PM All About Franchising by RK Franchise Consultancy

AUGUST 4 (DAY 2)
1:00PM J Channel Ingredients Workshop/Seminar on Meat Processing

AUGUST 5 (DAY 3)
1:00PM Halal . Designing the Future of Food Industry by Most Institute
3:00PM From Pantry to Party (How to Equip Your Catering Business by Micheal Yu of Sunnex
4:00PM Proper Handling of LPG by Petron Gasul Corp
5:00PM HACCP A Strategy for Global Competitiveness by Certification International Phils., Inc

AUGUST 6 (DAY 4)
1:00PM Live Life Better . Healthy Weight Management by Mind Body & Soul
2:00PM Getting into the Cart Business by Sam's Balls Inc.
3:00PM Success Secrets of Chinese Traders by Chefs Pride
4:00PM How to Start a Meat Processing Plant

TASTE EXPO

AUGUST 3 (Wednesday- DAY 1)
11:00AM Halal Cooking with International Chefs by Most Institute
1:00PM Thai Cooking with BNL Inc
2:00PM Culinary Demo by Scanasia Overseas Inc
3:00PM Grand Liquored Coffee Competition with the Philippine Bartender's League (PBL)

AUGUST 4 (Thursday -DAY 2)
11:00AM Halal Cooking with International Chefs by Most Institute
1:00PM Coffeeology By Robert Francisco , Boyd Coffee Co
3:00PM Hotel &Restaurant Chefs Association of the Phil (HRCAP) Market Basket Challenge
5:00PM Demo by Asian Bartending Academy

AUGUST 5 (Friday -DAY 3)
11:00AM Candies & Marmalade by Spices & Foodmix
1:00PM Cooking Demo by Mega Sardines
2:00PM Cooking Demo by MCH Distributors Inc
3:00PM Master Flairtending Competition - The Next Level with the Philippine Bartender's League (PBL)

AUGUST 6 (Saturday DAY 4)
11:00AM Culinary Competition by Cook
2:00PM Culinary Demo of Ajinomoto
3:00PM Boning Demo of Del Monte Philippines
4:00PM Ice Cream Scoopetition by Nestle Philippines

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World Food Expo opens on Aug. 3 to 6 at the World Trade Center, Manila Philippines. Wofex is tagged as the most anticipated food expo, the largest in the country and the ultimate food show experience! Wofex expects an audience of over 40,000 traders local and abroad, occupies 8,100 sqm of WTC, 700 plus exhibitors and over 10,000 product display. Coinciding with the exhibit are seminars & workshops by industry experts in food and beverage, culinary competitions with professionals. Wofex 2005 is co-presented by Petron Corporation, one of the Philippines largest oil refining and marketing company, supplying more than one-third of the country's oil requirements. Petron retails gasoline, diesel and kerosene to motorist, public transport operators and households through a more than thousand service stations and sell LPG brand to consumers through dealership network. In photo during the signing of memorandum, from left, Mr. Ed Antiligando of Petron Gasul, Randy Manaloto and Joel Pascual of PEPGroup, Mr. Joselito G. de Jesus, General Manager Petron Corporation Gasul Trade, and Mr. Jayvee Palafox of Petron Gasul. For information, call PEPGroup at 9297993 or 63, 9208136, 4364209, 4354790 or check website at www.wofex.com.

"HOW BOUT MY PLACE?" LIVE AT WORLD FOOD EXPO

World Food Expo (Wofex) 2005, the ultimate food show experience opens its doors at the World Trade Center this Aug. 3 to 6. Wofex, the premiere food exhibition in the country today offers a wide array of food and beverage supply solutions from raw materials & ingredients, bakery products and equipment, catering and restaurant supplies, processing/handling and packaging machines, beverages among over 10,000 product display. Coinciding the exhibition are culinary/bakery and beverage competitions plus over 30 seminar/workshops such as "Getting into the Donut and Ice Cream Business," Franchising, Food Sanitation, Why Get Into the Cart Business? , Creating a Successful Marketing Plan and The World Needs Filipino Bartenders. Also, ABC 5's food show "How 'Bout My Place?" aired every Sunday 10:30 am will do a series of live shoot featuring exhibitors & their product lines and cooking demos by Corporate Chef of Bistro Holdings (Friday's, Italiannis, Outback), John Cuunjieng. In photo during the signing are (seated) Chef John, Rafael Dizon (Chairman of Premiere Events Plus Group Inc., organizer), (standing from left) Butch Llige (Director-producer of How Bout) and Joel Pascual (President of Premiere Events Plus Group Inc.). For more information on Wofex, call PEPGroup at 9208136, 4364209, 4269603, 9297993 or 63. You may also log in to www.wofex.com.

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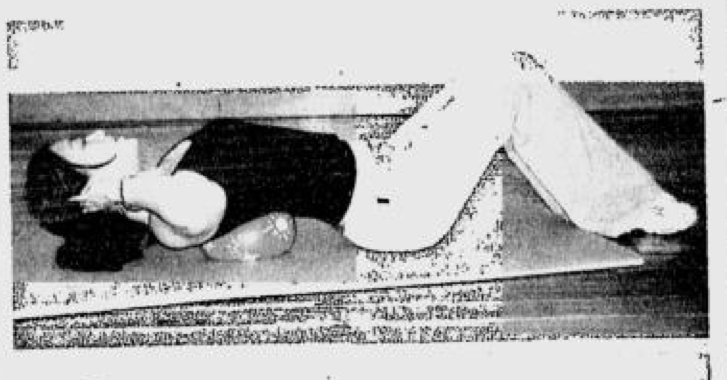
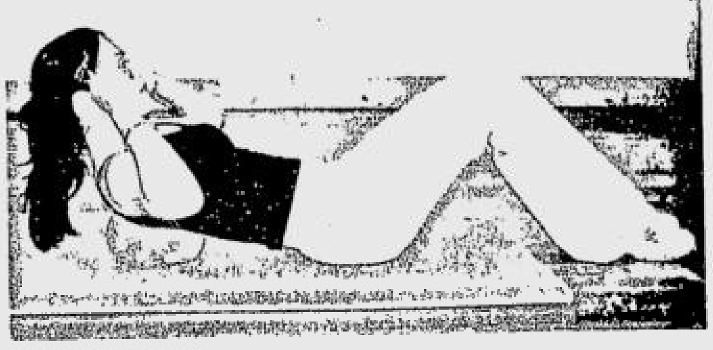
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Backward bend to ab crunch on mini ball





THIS exercise firms and strengthens the abdominal muscles. It also stretches the ab muscles and improves the mobility of the spine in a supported position.

Equipment

Exercise mat and small rubber ball

Exercise technique

1. Place the mini ball behind your shoulder blades.
2. Legs should be hip-distance apart with hands behind your head.
3. Carefully bend backwards until you can feel a mild stretch in the abdominal muscles. This is your starting position.
4. Slowly curl torso forward while pulling your belly button towards the floor and tilting your pelvis up.
5. Return to starting position and do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips

1. Inhale as you arch backwards; exhale as you curl forward.
2. Avoid clasping your hands behind your head so you don't pull on your neck.
3. For more advanced exercisers: Place the ball behind your lower back. This will give you a greater range of motion in arching backward and curling forward.
4. Be aware that you may experience a significant degree of muscle soreness the next day due to the eccentric contraction (lengthening under tension or resistance) of the abdominal muscles as you arch backward.

Repetitions

10 repetitions

Ideas from the 2005 World Fitness Convention

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

THIS year's World Fitness Convention celebrated 20 years of the Idea Health and Fitness Association which provide quality continuing education to fitness professionals from 60 countries.

I have attended this annual gathering for the last 15 years and I always learn something new. I will share in-depth what I learned over the next couple of weeks. For now, here are a few ideas.

Believe

Have the courage to start and believe that you can do it.

This year's Idea Fitness Inspiration Award went to Sarah Reinertsen, the first amputee to grace the cover of Runner's World magazine. Reinertsen is also the first woman with an artificial leg to compete in the Ironman triathlon, a grueling event that combines swimming, cycling and running.

Amazingly, Reinertsen only learned to ride a bike at the age of 28. She is proof that if you want something badly enough, you can do it.

Many people deprive themselves of a better quality of life because they don't think they have what it takes to get fit. Anyone can achieve a fitness level appropriate to his/her age and special physical condition but two things are needed in order to begin: the courage to start and the belief that he/she can do it.

Mind, mouth and muscles

Dr. Pamela Peeke, author of "Fight Fat After Forty" and research scientist in the fields of nutrition, exercise and integrative medicine, says it's not enough to diet (meaning eat sensibly) and exercise to lose weight. You also need to change your attitude. Think "can do," avoid the "all or nothing" trap, stop acting like a victim, and take responsibility for your lifestyle. Permanent weight loss is achieved when your mind, mouth and muscles work together.

The way you think determines where your fat goes.

Chronic stress keeps cortisol levels artificially high. Cortisol is a stress hormone that directs fat to be stored in the belly, particularly deep within the abdominal cavity. This type of fat, called visceral or deep belly fat, is associated with heart disease and diabetes.

Research indicates that stress in middle-aged men and women is a significant factor in potbellies that Peeke calls "man-o-pot" for men and "meno-pot" for women. So one of the secrets to a flatter stomach is "don't sweat the small stuff."

It's not about having nice thighs, it's about using your thighs to enjoy and celebrate life.

In her research, Peeke found that many women are so hung up on exercising just to get a nice-looking body that they view exercise as punishment for eating too much or they believe exercise is a necessary evil to achieve the looks they want.

Being fit is not about having nice thighs, arms or abs (although I must admit that is a great bonus), it's about using your body to do things that you enjoy. It's about waking up in the morning feeling energetic and empowered. The most committed exercisers I know work out mainly because it makes them feel good physically, mentally and emotionally.

Dr. Len Kravitz of the University of New Mexico says it best, "Muscle does not know age. It only knows use and disuse."

IDEAS/ C3

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What is tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis, also known as TB and nicknamed the white plague, is an acute or chronic mycobacterial infection of the pulmonary tract; it may invade the lymph nodes to cause systemic disease. It is caused by a gram-positive, aerobic, acid fast bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB), a small rod-like bacillus which can withstand weak disinfectants and can survive in a dry state for weeks but can only grow within a host organism. Transmission of tuberculosis infection is usually from droplets coughed out by an infected person. After droplet infection, the MTB causes a local infection in the lung and it creates the tuberculosis nodules consisting of grayish matter containing TB bacteria. TB begins gradually with coughing and then later traces of blood are coughed up in the sputum. If untreated, it leads to high fever, excessive weight loss and death.

This week's answer to our feature question on tuberculosis was provided by our seven-year medical service provider from Sacred Heart Hospital, Dr. Alexander Batoon. Doc Alex, as he is commonly addressed by his patients, specializes in Internal Medicine and has been in practice for more than 12 years now. He earned his medical degree from Dela Salle University-College of Medicine in 1986, followed by his residency training for a specialization in Internal Medicine in 1991 from Veterans' Memorial Medical Center. He is a member of Bulacan Medical society and the Philippine Medical Association. He spends his free time with his wife, Dr. Ledevine, and their four children. MEDICard members may seek for his advice at the Sacred Heart Hospital from Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 12 pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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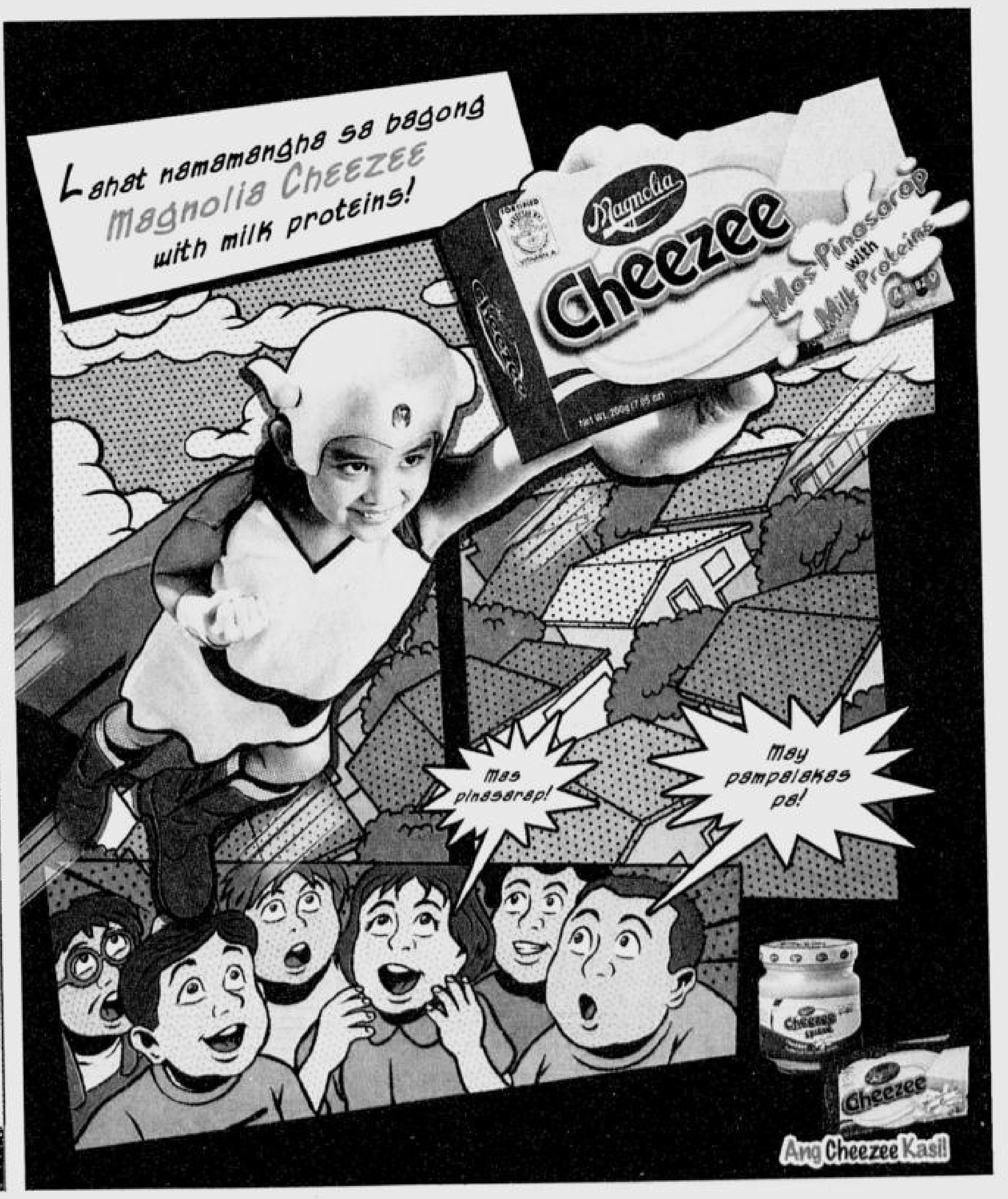
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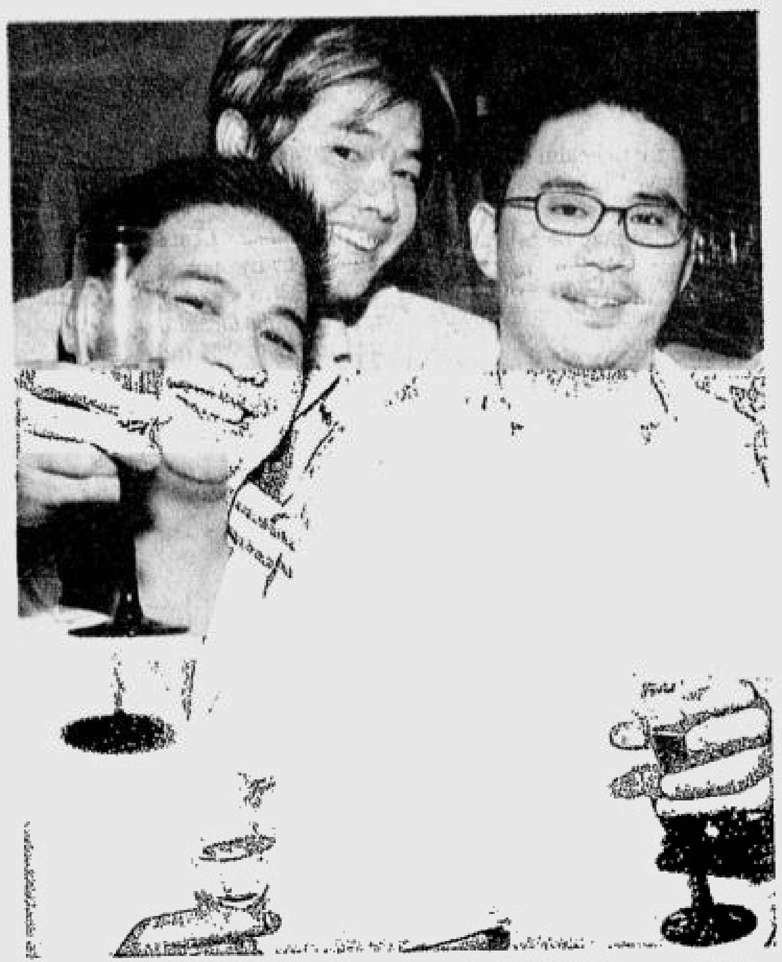


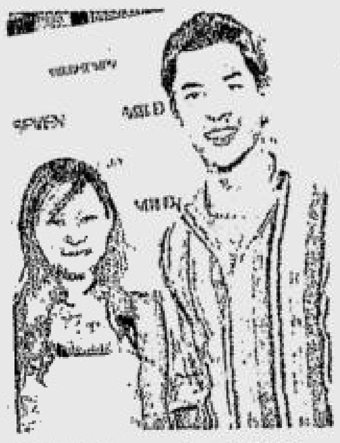
HOT guys who party hard: In-demand DJ and PR, GP Reyes, with Fro and Aaron of Rene Barbier

BICOLANA beauty and resto owner Angela Svea, and pretty, pretty—GP Reyes' true love—Chicho Suarez

EXOTIC beauty Chris Yam with super nice pal, Leo Po

RED Box hot dude, Walden Chua, and perky Maureen Disini

WORKING gals. Mild Seven's Kathy Bacosa and Mia Magtira



SLEEK dresser Jenny Chan with good-looker Jon Mullaly

LUCKY guy Illac Diaz with two eye-catching Mild 7 gals

PAREENA Dargani, Michelle Bumgarner, Sonam Uttamchanoani and Jasmine Dargani

Seven events for top sevens

THE BEAUTY and the gentleman. TV host Angel Aquino and debonaire Eddie Garcia

BEAUTIFUL faces. Nicole Anderson and Oakley endorser, Brad Turvey

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE POPULAR Mild Seven that is synonymous with fun, fun, fun, launched its series of Most Seven events in a one-night-only affair with a Most Seven Lounge setup at the jumping Greenbelt 3, *palanggas*.

White drapes, white logo walls and fab pumping music got us rolling in the huge space formerly occupied by Kidd Creole. Free-flowing red and white wines from Rene Barbier, including bubbly from Spanish brand Freixenet, kept the partying mob rocking.

Super hot new female DJ Mau Torres dished out sexy music, along with Superfly resident, **Karl Ty**. Gorgeous Mild Seven babes went around offering the hip crowd Mild Seven cigarettes.

Manille's hottest party people had a blast, letting their hair down as they enjoyed their booze, *palanggas*, a clear sign that the seven events in seven months will definitely be unforgettable bashes.

"This Most Seven party series takes off from last year's successful seven-party concept, only this time Mild Seven is the presenter. Each event will salute seven individuals who have made a mark in their respective fields via a special unveiling of a photographic exhibit by the one and only **Raymund Isaac**," explained to *moi* by young spitfire PR gent, **GP Reyes**, dahlings.

Set for this August is the Most Stylish Seven party for the most fashionable individuals in the scene. September will have the Most Successful Seven party, a tribute to successful entrepreneurs.

To be honored in October are the most beautiful faces in Manila's nightlife with the Most Stunning Seven party. November's Most Sought-after Seven party salutes creative people in advertising, fashion and design. DJs get the spotlight in December with the Most Superstar Seven party. The series will culminate with Mild Seven's Most Seven Xmas Ball.

As you can see, Mild Seven is really on the roll, *palanggas*.

Need more info? Do call GP Reyes at 0917-8534747 or 9106779.

Audio-visual

Wearing an Oakley is sooo cool, *palanggas*. And now Oakley has officially unveiled the awesome Thump! for optical dealers, high-spending celebrities and the partying pack at a *tres* private happening at the Loft in Rockwell.

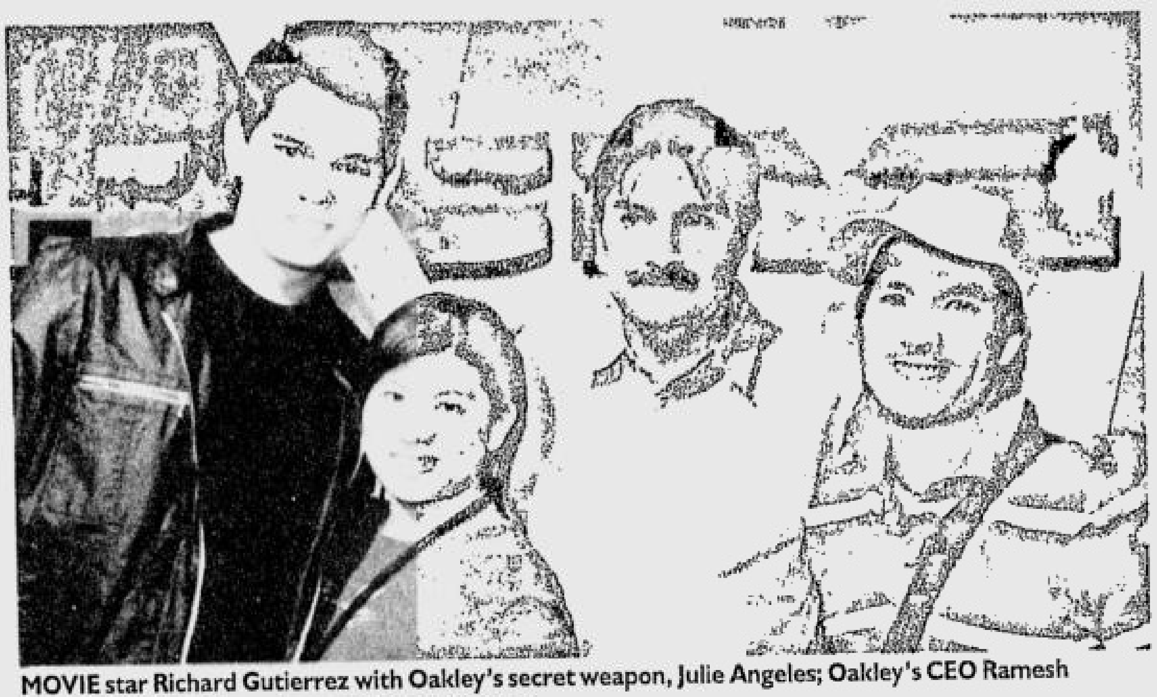
The event got Oakley followers together to jam and celebrate the world's first digital music eyewear, *palanggas*.

Top stage actor **Jaime Fabregas** played the part of Oakley's "Mad Scientist," explaining what Thump! was all about. In between explanations of the Oakley Revolution, musical acts by Sun Valley Crew, Imago and DRT had the cool crowd on its feet, rocking to a totally wild experience.

Aside from the music industry's hot names, movie and television stars like ageless **Eddie Garcia**, beautiful **Angelu de Leon**, **Rovilson Fernandez**, good-looker **Diether Ocampo**, **Miko Palanca**, **Tricia Chiongbian**, fun **Nadia Montenegro**, **Angel Aquino** and **Christopher Peralta** were among the many who could not pass up the chance to view and try on what could be the best, coolest invention of 2005.

The hot celebs rushed to check out Oakley's state-of-the-art invention that boasts of high-performance optics. It allows one to listen to music virtually anywhere without compromising sound or optical quality. "Oakley dares you to cut the cords and take the Thump to places where tethered music players get the way."

Oakley Thump! comes in seven color combinations and two players.



MOVIE star Richard Gutierrez with Oakley's secret weapon, Julie Angeles; Oakley's CEO Ramesh Dargani, and Oakley endorser Diether Ocampo

SUPER pals. Good-looker Antonio Aquitania with PR prince, Keren Pascual

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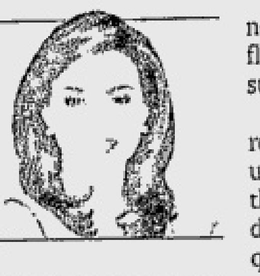
Healthful discoveries

INSIDE OUT



Cory Quirino

IN THIS rapidly changing world, one thing is constant: the desire to live longer and better.

Fortunately, people have more options now to make this wish a reality. Here are some of them:

No-guilt food

There is a haven of goodness in our neighborhood and it's called Delifresh (tel. 6388358). An organic restaurant and deli, it offers health-conscious clients a delicious array of chemical-free food. Some of the bestsellers from over 100 dishes on the menu are organic honey or herb chicken (from Isabela), whole-grain chickenesca pasta, salads, organic *bangus*, belly *sinigang*, beet, spinach and carrot noodles, chicken *kare-kare*, *halo-halo* made with organic fruits, assorted juices, and their house tea (a big hit).

Eva Rose Pua, president and owner, said all the dishes were personally "designed" by her. Her "happy" chickens are fed organic corn, supplemented with a vitamin/mineral regimen. Being free-range, the chickens have less fat than commercially-grown chicken that are given antibiotics and hormones.

Delifresh, at the Shangri-La Edsa Mall (parking lot area), uses only virgin coconut oil, rice bean oil and olive oil; and alkaline, mineral and distilled water. It uses only bamboo salt, a very tasty and healthy seasoning.

People with various illnesses troop to this organic resto hoping the food will help heal them. Some customers patronize the place to lose weight.

A seven-day detoxification program (complete with meals and supervision) guarantees results. Strict medical requirements have to be met before participants can participate in the program—blood tests, etc.

Also, three-day organic cooking lessons are offered. They include "food laws" for a healthy lifestyle. Classes continue through August.

The deli sells healthy foods from producers like the Maria Makiling Products (virgin coconut oil, soaps, etc.), homemade salad dressings and many more.

But why organic food? Because it's pesticide-free. Pesticide exposure and ingestion will lead to serious illness.

Flavored VCO

As the virgin coconut oil (VCO) craze sweeps the country, entrepreneurs Josy Villa and Bobby Habaluyas (Coco Ark Inc.), sensitive to consumer needs, have designed a line of flavored VCO—sweet corn, strawberry, caramel and vanilla.

The flavor, according to them, removes the nutty aftertaste of unflavored VCO. But they give the assurance the flavoring doesn't remove the VCO's virgin quality.

Flavoring has made VCO even acceptable to children. As a food supplement (suggested dose: four tablespoons daily), VCO is believed to have antibacterial, anti-fungal, anti-viral (including anti-yeast) benefits. It helps reduce the risk of heart disease, support the immune system, boost energy, control diabetes, prevent premature aging and maintain a supple skin. You might want to consider making it a part of your daily regimen.

Regular readers of this column can avail of a special offer. The first 20 callers will receive a complimentary 300ml VCO bottle while the first 100 callers can get a 5-percent discount. They have to present this column when claiming the prize/discount. Please call 7724914 and look for Jamie.

Freshest greens

City folks can now harvest the freshest of greens—romaine, *lolo rosa* lettuce and others—right at the heart of Quezon City, the Quezon Memorial Circle to be exact.

The Quezon City Chamber of Commerce (QCCC), headed by its president, Carl Balita, has launched a campaign to make Quezon City the wellness capital of the Philippines, in collaboration with the office of Mayor Sonny Belmonte.

Hydroponics expert Boy Guevarra (president of Mother Earth Hydroponics) says, at any time of the day, his condominium-style garden will have greens for interested buyers. Moreover, the QCCC is willing to help people wanting to have their own hydroponics garden. Seminars are being held at the memorial circle. The greens are grown without soil, chemicals or pesticides. Vegetables grow in a medium consisting of water alone. Call 3762779.

Postscript

There's no doubt about it. Health is wealth. Do review your lifestyles and ask yourselves, "Do I want to live longer and better?" If the answer is yes, then it's time to make a change.

Affirm: "Life is good. And I claim it as mine."

Your health regimen today: Make drinking of fresh fruit (minus the sugar) or vegetable juices a daily habit.

Beauty mask:

Mix a half cup of grated apples and carrots with ¼ cup of milk. Apply on a clean face (avoid the eye area). Add chilled cucumber slices to the eyes. Relax for five minutes. Rinse with cool water.

Love and light!

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Centering prayer is like meditation

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime T. Licauco

"A ROSE by any other name will still be a rose" (to paraphrase Shakespeare). I was reminded of this when I read an article in the Philippine Daily Inquirer about centering prayer advocated by a visiting American Trappist monk, Fr. Thomas Keating. (PDI, July 18)

Centering prayer, according to the article, "consists of choosing a sacred word, like God, Lord, Jesus, Abba and Father and sitting comfortably, focusing the mind on the word, taking care to banish extraneous ideas or disturbances."

In this way, according to Fr. Keating, "A new world appears within and around us and the impossible becomes an everyday experience."

How different is that from the meditation process introduced to the West by Eastern masters? The two are essentially the same. But, for Christians, it is made to sound new in order to remove its association with Eastern religions and New Age practices.

Not a rehash

"Some people may think centering prayer is a mere rehash of the New Age quietism. This is not true," says the article. "It remains a sound Christian practice since it is ultimately based on Scriptures."

But it's really the same old dog with a new collar, as far as I am concerned. Changing a Hindu God's name to "Jesus Christ" or to "God" does not change its essence. It is still essentially a "mantra," but of a different label.

And there's absolutely nothing wrong with it. Eastern teachers will not object at all if one wishes to say "Jesus," or "Buddha," or "Krishna," or "Allah" when meditating. It will not change the essence of the meditative process. As Shakespeare said, "A rose by any other name will smell just as sweet."

Meditation stills the mind and brings it to a level of awareness not possible under our ordinary waking state. In scientific terms, meditation or contemplation slows down the brain waves from the usual Beta frequency of around 14 to 21 cycles per second (cps) to around 7 to 14 cps. At this slower rate of Alpha (or even slower at Theta), the brain waves of the left and right neocortex are synchronized. This synchronization brings a new level of awareness to the person meditating.

Pioneer

Harvard Medical School graduate Dr. Herbert Benson, a cardiologist, was one of the pioneers in the scientific study of what happened during meditation and its physiological effects.

In his best-selling book, "The Relaxation Response" (published in 1975), Dr. Benson enumerated four essential factors to bring about the relaxation response or meditative state, namely: "A quiet environment, a mental device, a passive attitude and a comfortable position."

A quiet environment is needed at the beginning of the practice of meditation in order to remove distractions. But later, I believe an experienced meditator can bring about the relaxation response even in a noisy environment. In my seminar, I teach participants a dynamic form of meditation which they can do even in a noisy environment.

A mental device is any sound or object a person focuses on so that his mind will not wander about. With eyes closed, he can concentrate on the word "one" or any other neutral word. If eyes are open, he can focus on a black spot over a white background or on the tip of his nose.

It did not really matter what mental device one used, according to Dr. Benson. It's just a tool to maintain mental focus.

Achieving a passive attitude was the most important of the four factors and the most difficult, Dr. Benson said. This means having a "letting go" feeling. You have achieved a passive attitude if you remain calm and quiet when the telephone rings or when somebody calls you. If you jump to answer, you are not passive.

Comfort

The last important factor to bring about the meditative state is a comfortable position. Dr. Benson said it was not necessary to assume a difficult lotus position or yoga posture to meditate properly. The important thing was that a person was comfortable.

For instance, one should sit quietly with two feet on the floor, hands on his lap or wherever comfortable, spinal column straight but not stiff, and eyes closed. It is all right to meditate lying down if one can maintain wakefulness and not fall asleep.

The physiological effects of meditation were measured by Dr. Benson. He found meditation superior to sleep in controlling tension or stress. He compared the effects of sleep and meditation on rate of metabolism, oxygen consumption, alpha waves, blood lactate levels, blood pressure, rectal temperature, other activities of the sympathetic nervous system, etc.

Meditation brought about effects beneficial to health that could not be achieved by drugs without harmful side effects.

The practice may be called centering, contemplation, relaxation response or meditation. But they are all the same.

Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 for information on seminars I conduct. E-mail jtlicauco@tri-isys.com/innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com or visit http://www.jlicauco.shorturl.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Sunday.

Ideas from the 2005 World Fitness . . .

From page C1

It is never too late to get fit. Peeke points out that most senior Olympians did not start to get fit till their 40's and 50's.

A few years ago, the recipient of the Fitness Inspirational Award was a 90-year-old tri-athlete. The audience thought that he had been fit all his life. We were all shocked to discover that he began his journey to fitness in his early 60's after suffering from a mild stroke. Prior to that he was your typical couch potato.

Another lesson is that you can be a 30-year-old with 50-year-old muscles if you don't exercise. Conversely, a fit 50-year-old can have the muscle function of a 30-year-old.

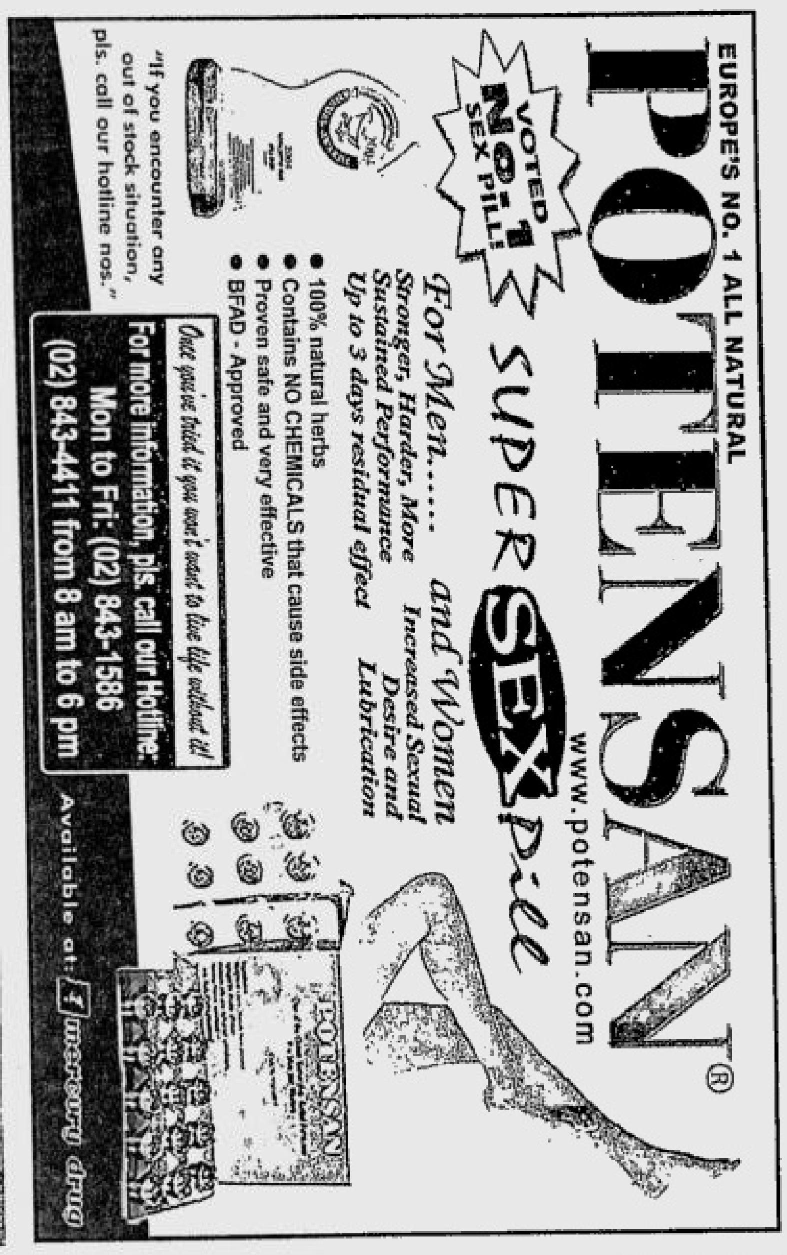
Sensible eating means making better food choices most of the time. We all know what that means—whole foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, seeds, lean meats and low-fat dairy.

Make better 'bad' choices

Sensible eating also means making not-so-good food choices infrequently: junk food, fatty food, refined carbohydrate foods, sugary food, and all other tasty but preservative-laden foods.

Another way of looking at it is to make better "bad" choices. If you have a craving for French fries, get a small order. Why line your arteries with more trans-fat than you need? Just have to have that chocolate bar? Choose the dark variety, which has more anti-oxidants than milk chocolate (white chocolate has none).

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info.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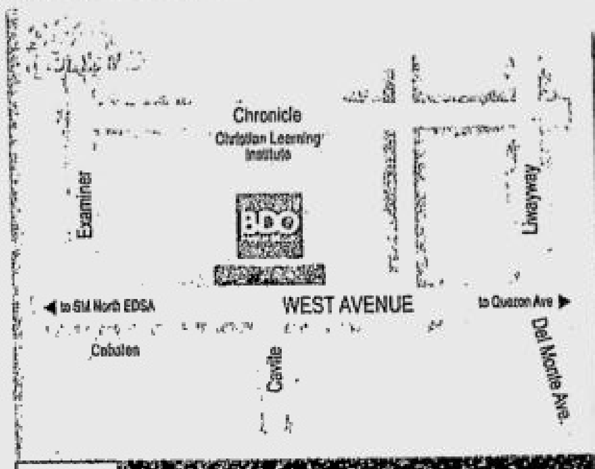
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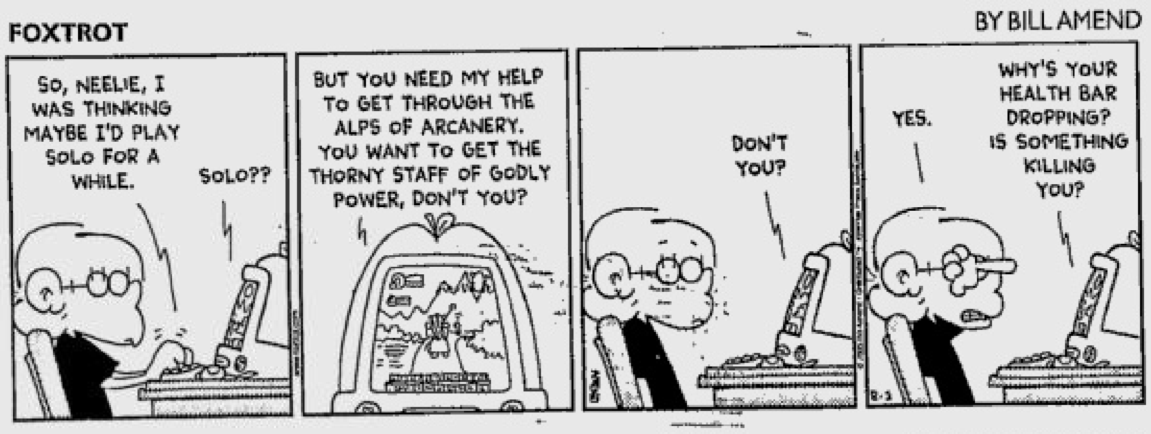
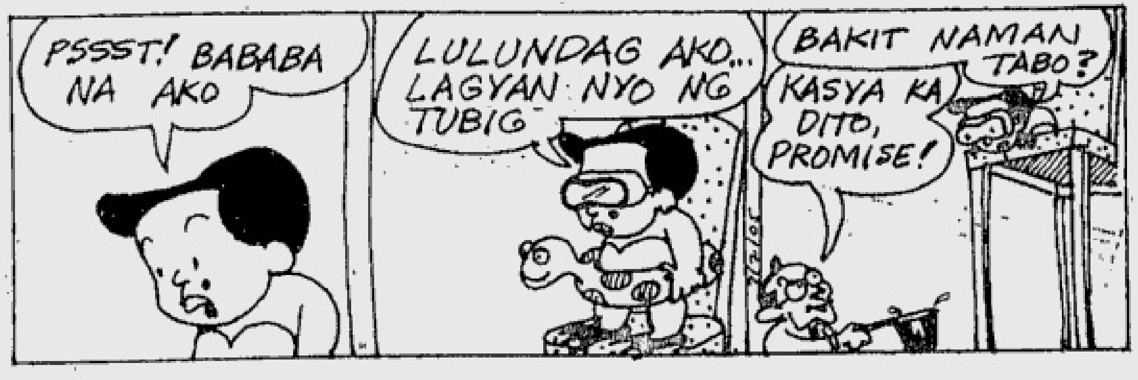
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


SO, NEELIE, I WAS THINKING MAYBE I'D PLAY SOLO FOR A WHILE.
SOLO??
BUT YOU NEED MY HELP TO GET THROUGH THE ALPS OF ARCANERY. YOU WANT TO GET THE THORNY STAFF OF GODLY POWER, DON'T YOU?
DON'T YOU?
YES.
WHY'S YOUR HEALTH BAR DROPPING? IS SOMETHING KILLING YOU?

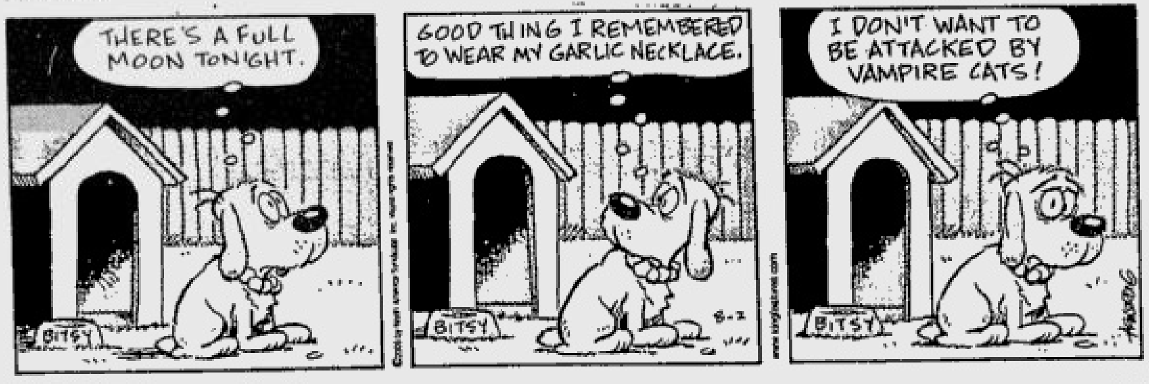
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PSSST! BABABA NA AKO
LULUNDAG AKO... LAGYAN NYO NG TUBIG
BAKIT NAMAN TABO?
KASYA KA DITO, PROMISE!

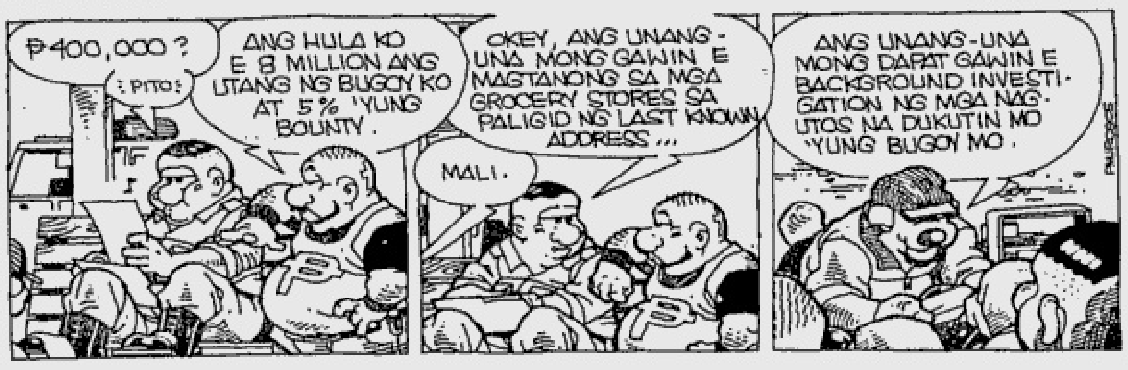
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THERE'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT.
GOOD THING I REMEMBERED TO WEAR MY GARLIC NECKLACE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE ATTACKED BY VAMPIRE CATS!
BITSY

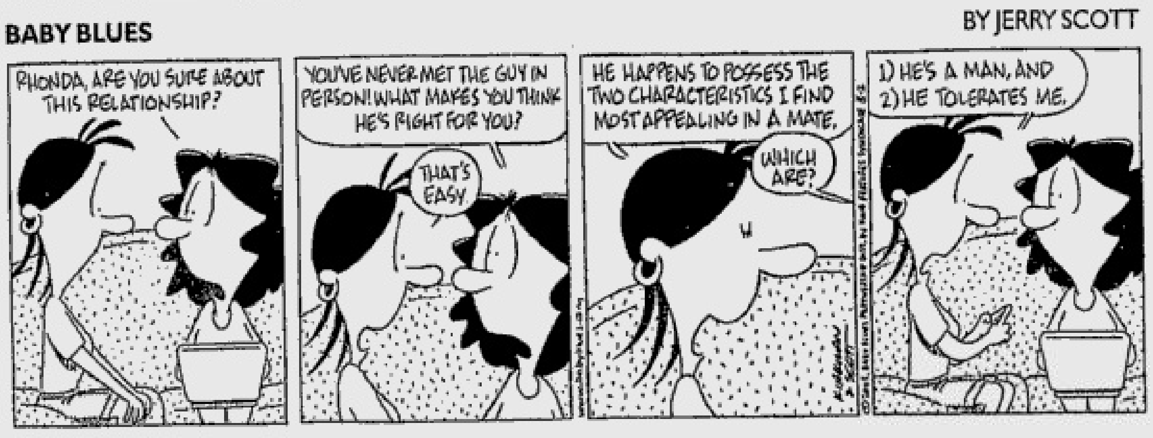
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


₱400,000?
PITO!
ANG HULA KO E 8 MILLION ANG UTANG NG BUGOY KO AT 5% 'YUNG BOUNTY.
OKEY, ANG UNANG-UNA MONG GAWIN E MAGTANONG SA MGA GROCERY STORES SA PALIGID NG LAST KNOWN ADDRESS...
MALI.
ANG UNANG-UNA MONG DAPAT GAWIN E BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION NG MGA NAG-UTOS NA DUKUTIN MO 'YUNG BUGOY MO.

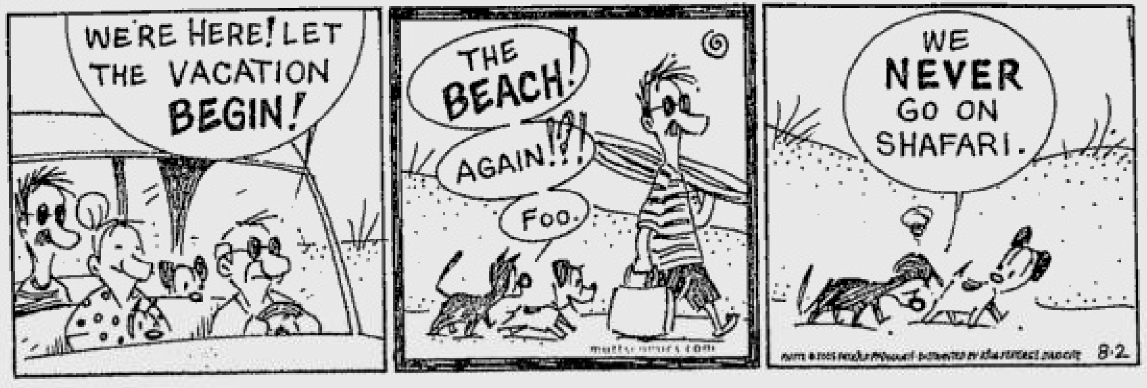
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


RHONDA, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS RELATIONSHIP?
YOU'VE NEVER MET THE GUY IN PERSON! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'S RIGHT FOR YOU?
THAT'S EASY.
HE HAPPENS TO POSSESS THE TWO CHARACTERISTICS I FIND MOST APPEALING IN A MATE.
WHICH ARE?
1) HE'S A MAN, AND 2) HE TOLERATES ME.

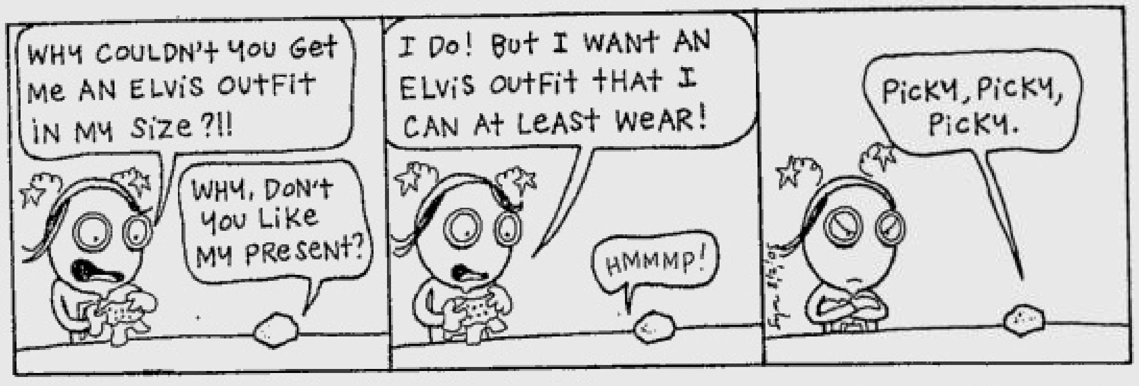
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WE'RE HERE! LET THE VACATION BEGIN!
THE BEACH!
AGAIN!?!
FOO.
WE NEVER GO ON SHAFARI.
8·2

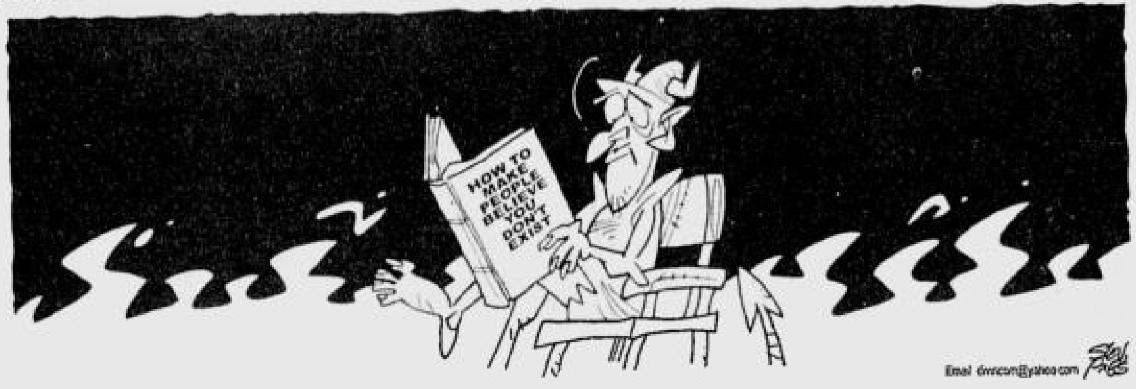
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY COULDN'T YOU GET ME AN ELVIS OUTFIT IN MY SIZE?!!
WHY, DON'T YOU LIKE MY PRESENT?
I DO! BUT I WANT AN ELVIS OUTFIT THAT I CAN AT LEAST WEAR!
HMMMP!
PICKY, PICKY, PICKY.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HOW TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE YOU DON'T EXIST

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have dramatic flair! You love to do things with style. It's important to balance the work you do with some fun play. (This is necessary for you.) You bring a daring, original quality to your work. (People like you.) This year could be one of the best years of your life. Dream big!
Birthdate of: Peter O'Toole, actor; Edward Furlong, actor; James Baldwin, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're full of wonderful, imaginative ideas today. What inspires great art is with you now. However, communication with children or romantic interests could be confusing.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be very clear in all your communications with others today. Conversations with family members (and parents, in particular) are subject to misunderstandings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't be hard on yourself because you're daydreaming so much today. You can't help it! Sometimes our minds need to drift elsewhere. (Consider it a mental health day.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Think twice before you spend money today. Be careful about your financial decisions at work or in your private life. You might not be getting the full picture!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today Mercury is in your sign, and it opposes fuzzy Neptune. This really isn't good. It's not horrendously bad, but you will feel confused when talking to partners and close friends. Double-check everything you say.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Mercury is your ruler. Today it opposes Neptune, the planet of smoke and mirrors. Your logic might be faulty, but your intuition is extremely good. Listen to the beat of your heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't be upset with a friend today. Conversations with others (groups and friends) are hugely subject to misunderstandings and confusion! Try to be the one quiet, sane voice in the wilderness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's quite likely that bosses, supervisors, parents and teachers will confuse you today (not intentionally). If you're not clear about what is expected of you, speak up.

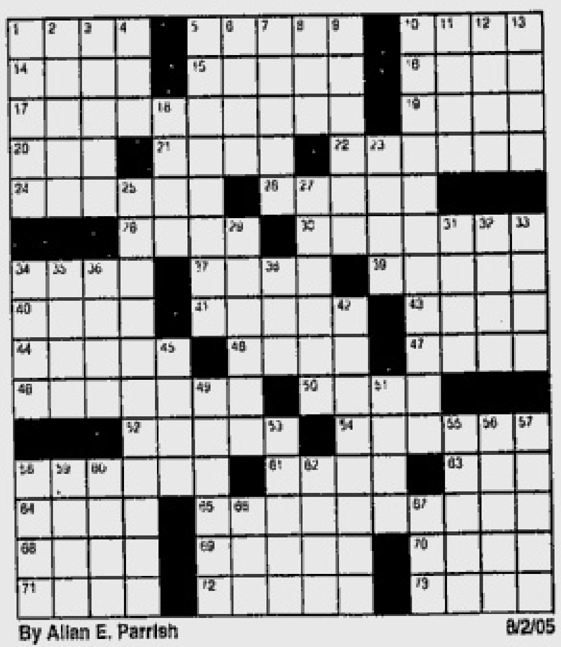
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't get swept away by some group pounding the principles of religion, politics or something weird and different. It's easy to be fooled today (especially if they're slick).

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might feel very sympathetic toward someone who needs help. This is good. Nevertheless, don't give away the farm. Think twice before you part with your possessions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with members of the public, partners and close friends are areas where you might really get a curveball thrown at you. If you don't know what's going on, do nothing. Don't speak!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Situations at work are confusing, possibly even devious. Somebody might not tell you everything you need to know. People are capable of deceit today.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH
8/2/05

ACROSS
1 Festive gala
5 College heads
10 Kodak film brand
14 "The Good Earth" role
15 Eurasian primrose
16 Detest
17 Sheet of glass
19 Farm team?
20 Actress Myrna
21 Pretty soon
22 Singer Fats
24 Stems
26 Antilles island
28 Medical suffix
30 Serialized segment
34 Plug of tobacco
37 Fervor
39 Sound of a wet impact
40 Leopold's partner
41 Outfit
43 Verdi opera
44 First name in talk shows
46 Exploiter
47 Part of MIT
48 Bishop's bailiwick
50 Laura or Bruce
52 Backbones of ships
54 Colorado city
58 Ye Olde __
61 Comic Sandler
63 Set sights
64 Silents star Negri
65 Wayans comedy
68 Catcher Berra
69 Rub out
70 Big name in faucets
71 Jazzman Getz
72 Fake-out moves
73 Scot's trills

DOWN
1 Assorted birds
2 "Silas Marner" author
3 Singer Tucker
4 Wind up
5 Institute cutbacks
6 Business show
7 "The George and __ Show"
8 Writer Anais
9 Accelerated
10 "Common Sense" writer
11 Skirt style
12 Sun god
13 Foreigner: pref.
18 Stately trees
23 Tokyo sashes
25 Chiropractor's concern
27 Depended
29 Son-of movie, e.g.
31 Lena of "Chocolat"
32 Family men
33 Coup d'__
34 Lummox
35 Navajo's neighbor
36 Prefix with dyne or drome
38 Group of GIs
42 Gets ready
45 Dickens hypocrite
49 Appeared
51 Buttocks
53 Pat of "Wheel of Fortune"
55 Marsh stream
56 Vacation vessel
57 Warning signs
58 Sutherland movie
59 Owl sound
60 Gymnast Korbut
62 Medicinal quantity
66 Metric measure
67 Emb. leader

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	N	■	P	S	S	T	■	P	A	R	L	A	Y
R	I	O	■	A	E	R	O	■	O	N	E	I	D	A
O	T	T	■	S	P	I	N	N	I	N	G	T	O	P
S	C	H	O	T	T	■	S	E	N	O	R	■	■	■
S	H	I	N	Y	■	M	I	S	T	■	E	M	I	R
■	■	N	O	F	A	U	L	T	■	B	S	I	D	E
G	A	C	■	A	C	T	S	■	L	A	S	S	I	E
E	L	L	■	C	I	T	■	S	A	C	■	T	O	D
T	I	E	R	E	D	■	M	I	L	K	■	E	T	S
U	N	F	E	D	■	M	A	N	A	G	E	R	■	■
P	E	T	S	■	H	O	E	S	■	A	R	R	A	S
■	■	■	I	C	O	N	S	■	A	M	R	I	T	A
F	O	G	G	Y	B	O	T	T	O	M	■	G	T	O
A	L	O	N	S	O	■	R	E	N	O	■	H	A	N
Y	E	A	S	T	S	■	O	X	E	N	■	T	R	E

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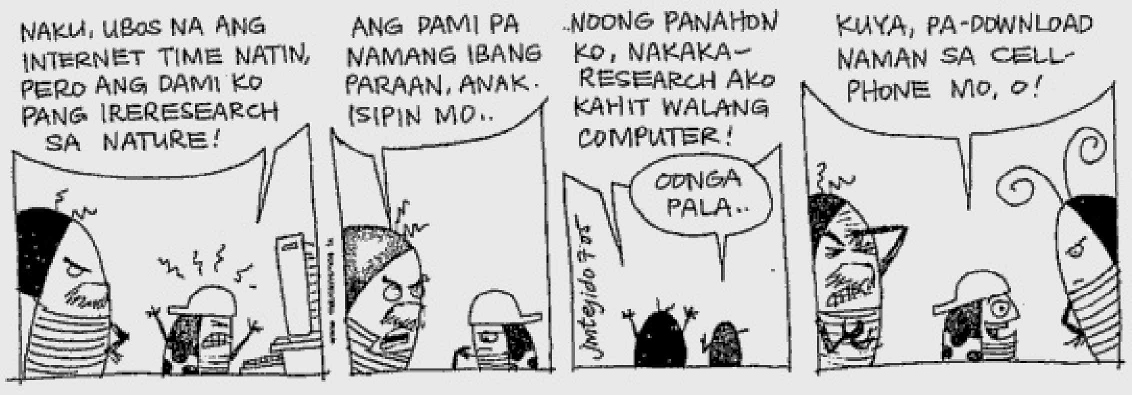
8/2/05

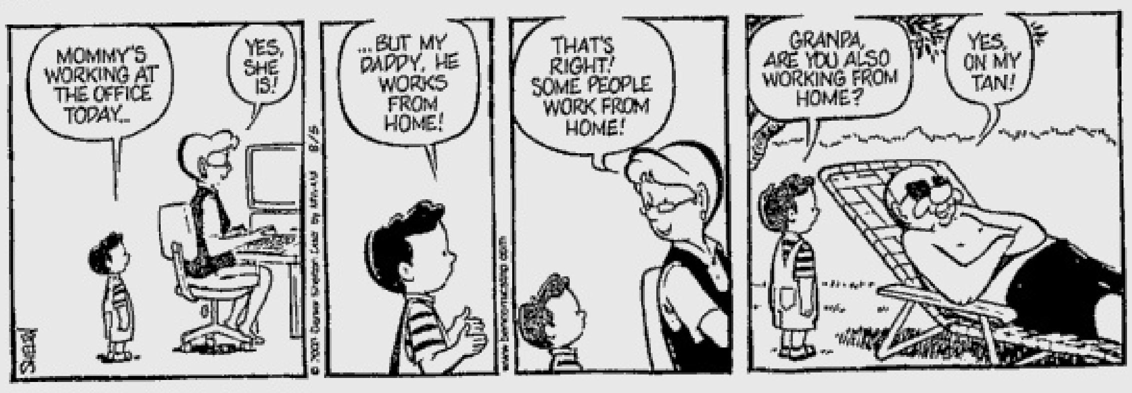
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU, UBOS NA ANG INTERNET TIME NATIN, PERO ANG DAMI KO PANG IRERESEARCH SA NATURE!
ANG DAMI PA NAMANG IBANG PARAAN, ANAK. ISIPIN MO..
..NOONG PANAHON KO, NAKAKA-RESEARCH AKO KAHIT WALANG COMPUTER!
OONGA PALA..
KUYA, PA-DOWNLOAD NAMAN SA CELL-PHONE MO, O!
Jmtejido 7·05

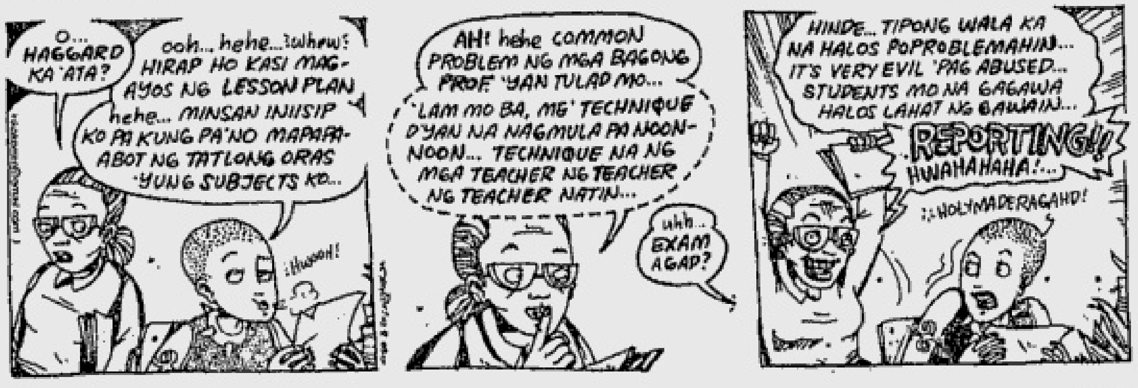
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOMMY'S WORKING AT THE OFFICE TODAY...
YES, SHE IS!
...BUT MY DADDY, HE WORKS FROM HOME!
THAT'S RIGHT! SOME PEOPLE WORK FROM HOME!
GRANPA, ARE YOU ALSO WORKING FROM HOME?
YES, ON MY TAN!

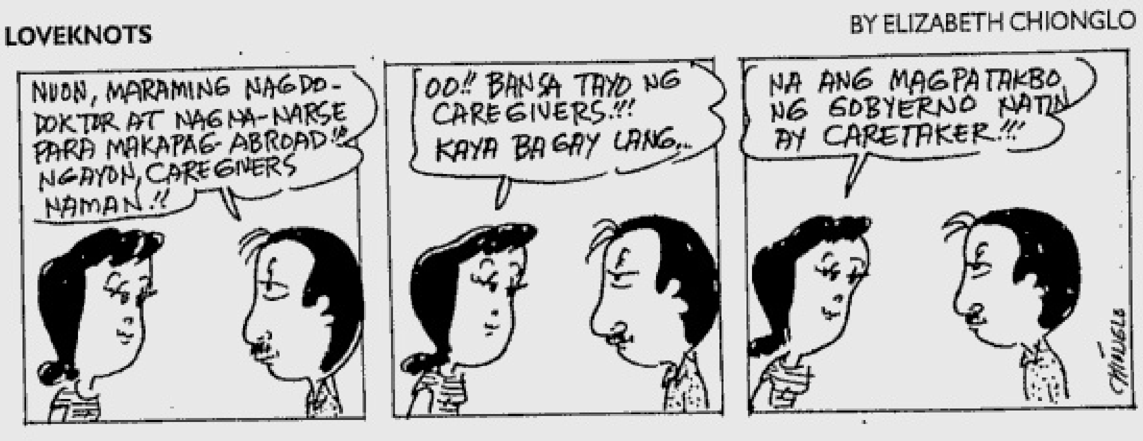
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O... HAGGARD KA ATA?
ooh... hehe... ¡whew! HIRAP HO KASI MAG-AYOS NG LESSON PLAN hehe... MINSAN INIISIP KO PA KUNG PA'NO MAPAPA-ABOT NG TATLONG ORAS 'YUNG SUBJECTS KO...
¡Huooh!
AH! hehe COMMON PROBLEM NG MGA BAGONG PROF 'YAN TULAD MO... 'LAM MO BA, MG' TECHNIQUE D'YAN NA NAGMULA PA NOON-NOON... TECHNIQUE NA NG MGA TEACHER NG TEACHER NG TEACHER NATIN...
uhh... EXAM AGAD?
HINDE... TIPONG WALA KA NA HALOS POPROBLEMAHIN... IT'S VERY EVIL 'PAG ABUSED... STUDENTS MO NA GAGAWA HALOS LAHAT NG GAWAIN...
REPORTING!!
HWAHAHAHA!...
¡¡HOLYMADERAGAHD!

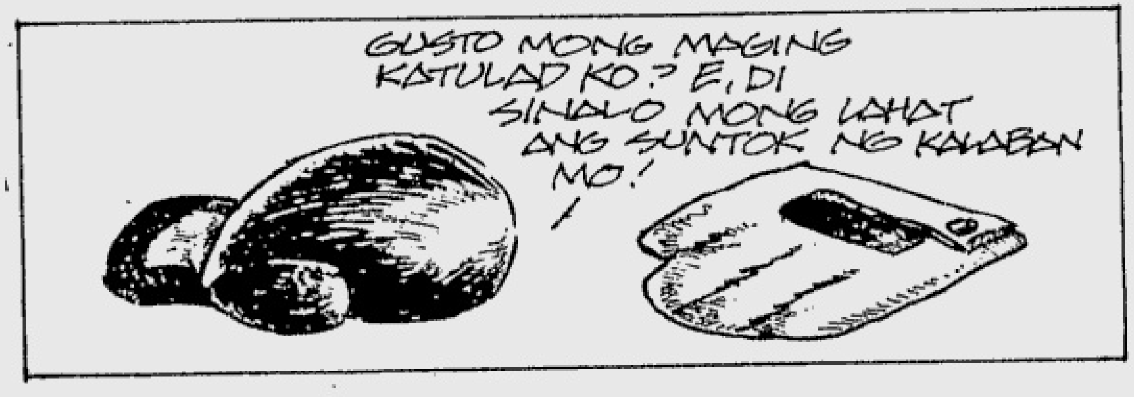
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NUON, MARAMING NAGDO-DOKTOR AT NAGNA-NARSE PARA MAKAPAG-ABROAD!! NGAYON, CAREGIVERS NAMAN!!
OO!! BANSA TAYO NG CAREGIVERS!!! KAYA BAGAY LANG..
NA ANG MAGPATAKBO NG GOBYERNO NATIN AY CARETAKER!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GUSTO MONG MAGING KATULAD KO? E, DI SINALO MONG LAHAT ANG SUNTOK NG KALABAN MO!